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3 petitions from active Fund members. PAGE 3
SHEFA issues over $193K for scholars. PAGE 9

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you intend to sign the petition to place the question of Saipan casino legalization on the Nov. 6 ballot?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

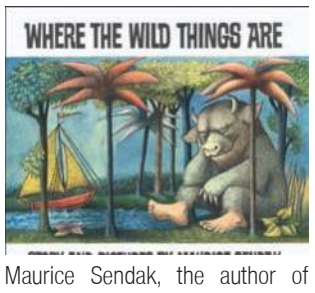
LOCAL

IP&E launches a new and enhanced loyalty program, the Lucky 7 Gold card. ➤ PAGE 2

BUSINESS

Gasoline prices likely won't set any records this summer. ➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE



Maurice Sendak, the author of "Where Wild Things Are," dies. ➤ PAGE 19

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

$336.9M deficit in FY 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Now for more bad news: The CNMI government's unreserved fund deficit ballooned by $36.1 million or 12 percent in a 12-month period, bringing the total to $336.9 million by the end of fiscal year 2010 compared to $300.8 million in fiscal year 2009, according to an independent audit of government finances.

» As lawmakers work on FY 2013 budget

The newly released Deloitte independent audit report says there's not much recovery in sight for fiscal year 2011.

The unreserved fund deficit of $336.9 million in fiscal year 2010 is much more than the government's fiscal year 2012 budget of $102 million.

"The local economy, still slowed by the effects of a drop in tourism and the loss of the garment industry, has continued to follow a trend of decreasing revenues. The prospects for fiscal year 2011 appear similar, with not much recovery in sight," says the report, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* from the Office of the Public Auditor yesterday.

The Deloitte report is addressed to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The audit says the CNMI general fund deficit is in large part the result of underfunding of employer retirement contri-

See DEFICIT on Page 4

BRUSH FIRE
One of two brush fires gobble up 30 acres of vegetation behind the former La Fiesta Mall in As Matuis yesterday. A separate brush fire also burned 30 acres of vegetation located near Palms Resort and Pau-pau Beach yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

See story on Page 6

Managaha no longer off limits to other water sports businesses

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands repealed Monday its Dec. 13, 2011, rule, paving the way for marine sports operators other than Tasi Tours and its partners to pick up individuals from Managaha for parasailing, banana boating, snorkeling, scuba diving or other water sports—but with some conditions.

"The services must be procured before traveling to Managaha, and not solicited or purchased after arriving at Managaha," acting DPL Secretary Pedro Itibus said in a two-page May 7, 2012, letter to marine sports operators.

See MANAGAHA on Page 4

Senate defeat of Article 12 initiative galvanizes popular initiative movers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Citizens for Change of Article 12 or CCART 12 is disappointed with the Senate's defeat of a legislative initiative to place the question of Article 12 in the Nov. 6 ballot, but the group is emboldened to pursue gathering signatures to place the question on the ballot.

Article 12 of the NMI Constitution restricts landownership in the CNMI only to persons of Northern Marianas descent, or NMDs.

CCART 12 chair Efrain F. Camacho said yesterday that a popular initiative is now the way to go after the Senate killed the legislative initiative.

"We're very disappointed. We don't understand the rationale by senators. By defeating the legislative initiative, they killed the chance of having the people decide on the issue. They should have let the people decide on Article 12," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

CCART 12's end goal is to have Article 12 abolished or repealed in its en-

See SENATE on Page 4

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Local

Shell rebrands loyalty program with Lucky 7 Gold card

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Customers of IP&E, which owns and operates the retail, commercial and distribution of Shell fuel on Saipan, can look forward to more rewards from their preferred gas station after the company launched yesterday a new and enhanced loyalty program designed to provide added value to its patrons.

The Lucky 7 Gold program offers Shell clients a chance to earn reward points by using an electronic card every time they gas up at Shell stations, doing away with its previous passport stamp approach.

IP&E officials from Saipan and Guam welcomed Shell Station operators, government and business leaders, and other guests at the unveiling of the new program, held at the Rey Lounge of Aqua Resort Club.

Besides going electronic, IP&E also announced its new and strategic marketing partnership with United MileagePlus for its Lucky 7 Gold program to make the gas reward program a success on island.

IP&E executive vice president Eloy S. Lizama said they are excited to update their Lucky 7 rewards program. "We really believe that the best gas rewards program in the market just got better," he said. "Customers can now use our convenient Lucky 7 Gold Card instead of the Lucky 7 Passport and earn the same benefits and more."

CLARISSA V. DAVID

From left, IP&E marketing manager Jeanette T.F. Suzuki, executive vice president Eloy S. Lizama, IT&E marketing manager Hans Mickelson, regional controller Rose Soledad, IP&E director of commercial sales and marketing, Rep. Joseph Palacios, IP&E CNMI area manager Jeff Boyer, and House Speaker Eli Cabrera after the launching of the new and improved Lucky 7 Gold rewards program at the Aqua Resort Club's Rey Lounge yesterday.

Lizama said they are also excited to have United MileagePlus as another anchor partner, besides IT&E, for the enhanced reward program.

"United MileagePlus is a perfect fit for Lucky 7 and we're looking forward to our program gaining even more momentum as a result of our great partnerships and added convenience," he said.

Those interested to join the Lucky 7 Gold program can fill out an application form available at all Shell stations on island or from their website at ipesaipan.com.

For a limited time, customers who sign up with the new program will receive either 50 free gallon points or 250 MileagePlus bonus miles.

Customers earn 1 point in their Gold Card per gallon of fuel purchased at any Shell Station on Saipan. Every 100 points entitle customers to redeem them for any of any of the following: $7 worth of Shell fuel, $7 worth of merchandise at any Shell Station, $10 IT&E prepaid wireless card, or the new option of 500 United MileagePlus award miles.

Additionally, IP&E also launched yesterday the "Go for the Gold" giveaway promotion. To join, one only need to sign up for the new electronic Lucky 7 Gold card to get a free entry form.

Customers who purchase Shell V-Power premium gas during the promo period will get two entry forms for more chances to win a ton of Shell V-Power premium gas, 200,000 United MileagePlus award miles, United round trip tickets to U.S. or Asia, iPad 3 or Mi-Fi with service, and $800 IT&E gift certificates.

Navy renames ferry to USNS *Guam*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—One of two military sealift high-speed ferries that the U.S. Navy acquired for use in the Asia-Pacific region has been renamed USNS *Guam*.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo said yesterday that Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus personally informed her of the renaming.

The Navy bought the two private Hawaiian high-speed ferry vessels, *Huakai* and *Alakai*, from the Maritime Administration earlier this year. These acquisitions were authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2012. Both vessels will be used to transport military personnel and equipment to training areas from Okinawa and other locations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Bordallo has made numerous requests for a vessel to be named after Guam. Previous ships bearing Guam in its name include the Iwo Jima class amphibious assault ship (LPH-9), which was decommissioned in August 1998, and the Alaska-class cruiser (CB-2), which was decommissioned in February 1947.

"The U.S. Navy has been integral to the history of Guam and remains an important presence in our community," said Bordallo. "I thank Secretary Mabus for his decision to rename this military transport high-speed ferry in honor of the Navy's longstanding relationship with our island. The USNS *Guam* will help transport military personnel in the Asia-Pacific region and will likely be utilized to support operations in and around Guam in the coming years. …I am confident that this military transport high-speed ferry will be a critical asset to the readiness of our forces in the Asia-Pacific region." ***(PR)***

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3 petitions from active Fund members; Fitial reviews HB 17-226

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is still reviewing a bill that would allow active or non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions regardless of years of service and without penalty, even as over a hundred active members led by Joe Pangelinan and Mark Staal are petitioning the governor to sign House Bill 17-226, among other things.

"This bill is still undergoing legal review. Once this review is completed, the administration will be able to take a position that is in the best interest of the Commonwealth," press secretary Angel Demapan said.

There are three main petitions being circulated by the active Fund members, including the one addressed to the governor.

This main petition urges the governor to sign into law HB 17-226, and to help allocate permanent funding for the current retirees.

Fitial

"The rationale: Given the $3 million-plus judgment on the government to repay the Fund, it is up to the government to salvage the Fund for the current retirees, not the active employees who are currently paying into a system they will never benefit from," Staal said.

A second petition is very similar to the first one, except it's addressed to the court.

A third petition is addressed to the court on behalf of persons under 15 years of service in an effort to preserve the 15-year rule, but also to eliminate the six-month clause.

Active employees Staal, Pangelinan, Phyllis Ain, and Paul Joyce presented their personal stories then invited comments, questions from the audience.

The major themes of their discussions included having active employees continue to pay into the Fund "with no sight of return on their investment," said Staal.

"By paying into a mandatory pension fund, most employees have foregone social security payments for their entire professional lives. Adding insult to injury, they have been expected to continue to pay in even though under Chapter 11, an automatic stay has further prevented them from accessing their withdrawals," Staal added.

The active members pointed out that, although the Fund has a legal obligation to protect active employees investments, no information session or other public session has been made available to them.

The next meeting of active members will be on May 22, at 6:30pm, at the American Memorial Park.

Around the same time that active members were meeting, the Commonwealth Retirees Association was also holding its own meeting.

CRA, just like the Senate earlier that day, solidified their position supporting the U.S. Trustee's motion to have the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing withdrawn.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said he personally supports having the bankruptcy filing withdrawn but the full House leadership has yet to discuss the matter.

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USCIS adjudicator testifies in immigration fraud case

The U.S. government began calling its witnesses yesterday in the ongoing federal jury trial of a Chinese woman who allegedly lied in her immigration application.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe first called to the witness stand Jesselee Santos-Krider, an adjudicator at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services who interviewed Tang in 2009.

Santos-Krider testified about the types of immigration applications she has reviewed and adjudicated such as Tang's USCIS Form I-485 and USCIS Form I-130. Form I-485 is an application to register for permanent residence or adjust status, while Form I-130 is a petition for an alien relative.

According to Backe, the purpose of Form I-130 is to establish that there is a legal, bona fide relationship between the petitioner and the beneficiary who is to benefit from the filing of the petition. Backe said the beneficiary can apply for a change or adjustment of his or her immigration status based on that relationship.

Santos-Krider said the questions she asks make sure that the relationship between the petitioner and the beneficiary is valid and not only for immigration benefit.

During Santos-Krider's interview about Tang's application, Tang allegedly stated that she only has one child.

Santos-Krider said she found a discrepancy in Tang's statements so she put the case on hold for further review and then referred Tang's case to a fraud investigator.

Santos-Krider agreed with defense counsel Colin Thompson that Tang's petition was ultimately denied but on a totally different ground.

According to the indictment, Tang lied in her application to register permanent residence or adjust status with USCIS. Tang allegedly claimed that her only child was her daughter born in 2006 when in fact she also gave birth to a son in April 2002.

After Santos-Krider, the prosecution called Homeland Security Investigations special agent Christopher Kobayashi, the former case agent assigned to the investigation of Tang and others believed to be engaging in visa fraud on Saipan.

Kobayashi interviewed Tang on Aug. 6, 2011, during which the defendant allegedly admitted that she had another child and acknowledged that she did not list the child on her 2009 Form I-485. Tang allegedly claimed she did not disclose the child because she wanted to be consistent with her 2006 Form I-485.

The trial will continue today, Thursday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Couple pleads guilty to selling fake Viagra

A couple charged for their involvement in selling Viagra-like pills on Saipan pleaded guilty in federal court on Tuesday.

Kwok Kwun Lee pleaded guilty to count 4 of the indictment charging him with receipt and delivery of misbranded drugs.

Sook Lan Wong pleaded guilty to a one-count information charging her with receipt and delivery of misbranded drugs.

They will be sentenced on Aug. 10, 2012.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Lee's request to amend his pretrial release conditions by releasing his passport due to his current health conditions.

Lee is a Chinese national, while Wong is a Malaysian national. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Vessel problem pushes back Marines' arrival on Tinian

The privately owned high-speed vessel that's supposed to bring some 100 U.S. Marines from Japan to Tinian has experienced "some technical challenges," further pushing back the Marines' arrival by a few days, Lt. Col. Aisha Bakkar of the Marine Forces Pacific Guam and CNMI said yesterday.

She said the earliest time of arrival is Sunday, May 13.

Don Farrell, CNMI historian and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's point man on military issues, also said the Marines are not landing on Friday.

"In fact, their privately owned charter boat broke down and they a bobbing around somewhere in the Western Pacific. We are now expecting them to arrive on the 13th or 14th," he said.

The Marines were originally set to arrive on May 8, then May 9, and then May 11. Now, the schedule has been pushed back further.

Officials said schedule changes frequently because of weather conditions and refueling requirements.

Some 200 Marines will participate in Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, which is intended to allow Marine Aircraft Group-12 out of Japan "to improve aviation combat readiness and simulate operations in a deployed austere environment." ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Police brutality lawsuit dismissed

The federal court dismissed yesterday the claims of a Chinese national who is suing the Department of Public Safety for police brutality but allowed him to amend some of his claims.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to dismiss the case filed by Jin Dong Wang against the CNMI, former DPS commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, and former police officer Jesse Dubrall.

Manglona, however, allowed Wang to amend his case with respect to the allegation of illegal search and seizure and negligence.

Wang is suing the CNMI, DPS, Tudela, Dubrall, and 10 unnamed co-defendants for alleged civil rights violations when Dubrall allegedly used excessive force during Wang's mistaken arrest on Oct. 18, 2010.

Wang alleged that Dubrall severely beat him with the butt of his gun and punched and kicked him, but the police later realized that Wang was not the suspect they were looking for.

The Chinese national reportedly suffered a large cut on the head.

In a 26-page order and opinion issued yesterday, Manglona also granted the OAG's motion to dismiss Tudela from the case but allowed the plaintiff to amend all claims except the violation of civil rights under the CNMI Constitution.

Manglona denied without prejudice the CNMI government's motion to substitute the CNMI in Wang's three causes of action against Dubrall—assault and battery, emotional distress, and negligence.

"Wang may proceed with discovery on these claims and may petition for judicial review and an evidentiary hearing of the Attorney General's certification thereafter but prior to trial," the judge said.

After discovery closes, Manglona said the government may renew its motion to substitute if it finds adequate cause in compliance with Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule II.

Manglona granted the government's motion to substitute in for Dubrall as to Wang's second cause of action—false arrest. The judge dismissed Dubrall from this claim.

Manglona denied Wang's demand for a jury trial and instead ordered a bench trial in Wang's claims against the Commonwealth. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ERRATUM

In an opinion column by John DelRosario Jr., in the May 9, 2012 issue, he incorrectly quotes a *Forbes* column as stating: "Merrill Lynch and the lead plaintiffs in a class action involving about 70 municipal pension plans in Florida together filed a proposed settlement recently seeking to end a dispute over whether Wilshire breached its fiduciary duties as the investment consultant to these pensions." In fact, Wilshire is not a party to that suit and the column actually reads: "Merrill Lynch and the lead plaintiffs in a class action involving about 70 municipal pension plans in Florida together filed a proposed settlement recently seeking to end a dispute over whether the wirehouse breached its fiduciary duties as the investment consultant to these pensions." Our apologies.

SENATE

From Page 1

tirety. But even before that could happen, the question of whether to retain or repeal Article 12 should first be placed on the ballot, and that's why CCART 12 is gathering signatures.

Camacho said CCART has so far gathered some 2,300 signatures of registered CNMI voters and they are continuing to gather some more.

They need over 7,000 to have it placed on the ballot. It targets some 8,000 signatures just to be on the safe side, because the Office of the Attorney General still has to review and certify which of the signatures are valid.

Had the Senate passed the legislative initiative and the House followed suit, the Article 12 question would have been on the ballot for voters to ratify.

Both supporters and opponents of a repeal of Article 12 use the phrase "for the protection of NMDs" to argue their point.

Camacho questioned the argument of those who want Article 12 retained.

He reiterated that current NMDs are already losing their land because of the blood quantum requirement, and future generations will lose their right to own or inherit land from their parents if blood quantum continues to be diluted.

For example, many NMDs are marrying outside the Chamorro/Carolinian bloodline. Several NMDs are now only 25 percent NMD and most likely will be marrying non-NMDs.

"So how is Article 12 protecting an NMD that is less than 25 percent bloodline?" he repeated. Instead of protecting NMDs, Article 12 is now depriving NMDs of landownership, he said.

On Tuesday, only Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) voted "yes" to Legislative Initiative 17-10. He is the author of the initiative. There were eight senators present. One was absent.

Of the eight, Manglona voted "yes" to SLI 17-10, five voted "no," one abstained and one voted "present."

Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian), among those who voted "no," said that Article 12 should be retained to protect future generations of NMDs and to prevent foreign landownership.

Camacho said they are only talking about private lands and not public lands, which still comprise the majority of lands in the CNMI.

He said the government should not continue dictating how private landowners should manage or use their private property.

DEFICIT

From Page 1

butions and related penalties totaling $246.5 million as of Sept. 30, 2010.

It says various laws and other austerity measures, including reduced work hours, a hiring freeze, stringent review of non-personnel expenditures and reduced budget allotments are being implemented to reduce expenditures.

The Fitial administration continues to implement 16-hour work cut biweekly and unpaid legal holidays, even as its public pension agency sought bankruptcy protection and the public hospital teeters on the brink of shutting down.

"Management believes that actions presently being taken to revise the CNMI's operating requirements…provide the opportunity for the CNMI to commence the process of reducing the abovementioned general fund deficit position," it says.

If there's a bit of good news, at least the general fund unreserved deficit increased by only $36.1 million in fiscal year 2010, lower than the increase of $44.6 million in 2009 and $38.1 million in 2008. These were all under the Fitial administration.

The independent audit report also says economic factors continue to play a large role in developing the tax and other revenue budgets for the CNMI's general fund.

With the steady increase in deficit and no funds set aside to retire it, past and present administrations have been violating the NMI Constitution.

Article 10 Section 6 of the NMI Constitution says the government shall retire the deficit during the second consecutive fiscal year following the year.

Expenses exceed revenues

For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2010, the CNMI's total net deficiency increased by $56 million, bringing it to $220.2 million. This marks an increase of some 34.1 percent at the beginning of the year, the Deloitte report says.

Total revenues for fiscal eyar 2010 were $260 million, but total expenses were $316 million, resulting in the $56 million increase in net deficiency.

Government expenses included those recorded for payments made or due to autonomous agencies and were funded in part by program revenues of $144.6 million, further funded with taxes and other general revenues totaling $115.4 million.

For budgetary reporting purposes, general fund actual revenues were lower than final estimates by $2.5 million or 1.7 percent.

Reported actual expenditures also exceeded final estimated appropriations by $24 million or 14.7 percent.

These amounts do not include transfers to and from other funds, nor does it include receipt or use of long-term debt proceeds.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said he has been looking forward to this 2010 audit report, which he said could help his committee work on the 2013 budget.

The House and the Senate have capped the 2013 budget at $102 million, as submitted by the governor. On Tuesday afternoon, the Senate concurred with the House budget cap by adopting House Concurrent Resolution 17-4.

Basa said the "biggest challenge" is finding money for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CHC officials asked for a $10 million government subsidy in 2013, but the governor only offered $2.5 million.

"Now that the Senate passed the concurrent resolution, Ways and Means can start deliberating on the budget," Basa said in an interview at his office. The budget hearings continue today.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), for his part, said the government needs to enforce its tax laws and collect taxes instead of raising taxes. He said this is difficult because the Fitial administration could not even hire a director for Finance's Revenue and Taxation Division.

"We're in such a bad shape, yet we allow people and businesses to not pay their taxes. If the government goes after companies not paying taxes, they will start paying taxes," he added.

Based on preliminary, unaudited figure reported by the Fitial administration, the cumulative deficit would be $370 million by the end of fiscal year 2011, including the $25.8 million budget deficit in fiscal year 2011 alone.

Budget deficit is a combination of overspending and revenue shortfall.

MANAGAHA

From Page 1

Cora Pangelinan, co-owner of Island Marine Sports or IMS, said even before DPL promulgated its December rule, they and other operators have not been soliciting services on Managaha.

"We've lost a lot of revenues because of DPL's rule. I'm glad they repealed it," Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Pangelinan and IMS co-owner David Pangelinan hired the services of the Law Office of F. Matthew Smith in asking DPL to reconsider its December rule.

They pushed for DPL to review its rule and relevant statutes and then the repeal the December rule. As a result, not only IMS was helped, but other marine sports operators as well.

"I am thankful to attorneys Smith and Mark Scoggins for helping us," Pangelinan added.

Adonis Santos, owner and president of Auto Marine, said last night he's relieved that DPL finally repealed its rule. He said the restrictions were making a dent on their business, adding that they do not solicit services on Managaha but were only fulfilling services already arranged before the tourists went to Managaha.

In his May 7 memo DPL's Itibus announced "the repeal of the rule first promulgated in its December 13, 2011 letter" to various marine sports operators regarding their operations related to Managaha.

The specific issue is whether marine sports operators can pick up individuals from Managaha for water sports.

"The answer depends on the manner in which the marine sports operator's services were required," Itibus said.

Since 2001, Tasi Tours and Transportation Inc. has held exclusive concession rights on Managaha, a world renowned snorkeling site visited by over 60 percent of all tourists who come to the CNMI each year.

Pursuant to the concession agreement, Tasi Tours holds several exclusive rights to sell products and services on Managaha.

"Accordingly, marine sports operators are not allowed to solicit services on Managaha Island. The [DPL] is empowered to enforce this rule pursuant to The Rules and Regulations Regarding the Commercial Use of Managaha Island 5C (Sept. 15, 1993)," Itibus said.

The situation differs with respect to services procured off Managaha, since concessionaire's exclusive rights are limited to Managaha.

This is what other marine sports operators have been arguing with DPL about, saying that even before tourists go to Managaha, they have already procured their services for water sports such as banana boat sailing and parasailing. They said they do not solicit customers on Managaha.

DPL's Itibus, in his letter, said marine sports operators are allowed to sell packages that include transportation to and from Managaha that include water sports.

He said it is clear, for example, that a marine sports operator could transport tourists to Managaha for an afternoon, and then take those same tourists on a banana boat ride in the lagoon on their way back to Saipan.

A similar situation exists where a marine sports operator sells a package whereby the operator transports a group of tourists to Managaha, picks up those same tourists for a banana ride in the lagoon, returns those same tourists to Managaha for a period of time, and finally picks those same tourists up to transport them back to Saipan, he said.

"In this case, the marine sports operator has already sold a package, and is merely picking up those tourists to fulfill the package," Itibus said.

He also said it is evident that the economic downturn has affected the concessionaire, several independent marine sports operators, and the CNMI in general.

"The arrangements described herein are consistent with both the text of the Concession Agreement and past practice," he added.

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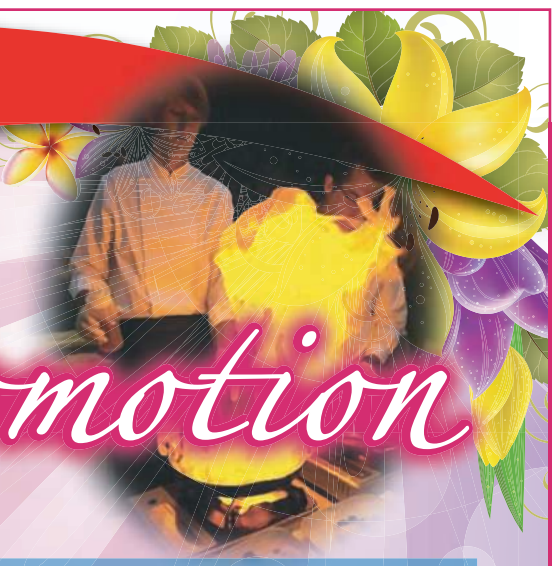

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Two brush fires struck near La Fiesta, Paupau Beach

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two large bush fires gobbled up about 60 acres of vegetation behind the former La Fiesta Mall in As Matuis and near Paupau Beach yesterday.

No one was reported hurt and firefighters stopped the blaze from spreading to houses behind the former La Fiesta Mall and the closed Palms Resort.

As of 5pm, there were still small fires and thick smoke engulfing the area.

Fire investigator Daniel R. Suel said they are still investigating the cause of the twin blaze, although they noted that brush fires usually break out in the same area near Paupau Beach every year.

Saipan Tribune learned from witnesses and firefighters that the first blaze broke out at noon in the bushy area on Tanko Drive behind the former La Fiesta building.

With hardly any rain in the last few weeks, the dry vegetation immediately ignited, the flames quickly crawling up the hill in As Matuis. Firefighters prevented the blaze from spreading to houses located on Rakka Drive.

At 4pm, the blaze jumped over the fence wall of the former La Fiesta and burned bushes and trees at a portion of the parking lot. Two firefighters moved to the parking lot and stopped the fire from spreading to the building.

Jolly, 50, who asked that he be identified only by his first name, said that when he left the house they were building along Rakka Drive at noon, he noticed that the bush fire had just started.

When he returned an hour later, the fire had already gobbled up a large area and firefighters, using a small fire truck, were already busy preventing the flames from spreading in the direction of a house.

A firefighter estimated that the first fire affected 20 to 30 acres of vegetation.

At 4pm, another fire broke out in a bushy area on the side of Chalan Pale Arnold near Paupau Beach, across the former La Fiesta Mall. As grasses were dry, the fire immediately spread. Firefighters used a large truck to prevent the blaze from jumping over the fence to Palms Resort.

A witness saw a white pickup truck parked near the side of the road that sped off. A few minutes later, the witness saw smoke then fire in the area.

The second fire also affected 20 to 30 acres of vegetation, a fire investigator said.

Thick smoke from the twin bush fires blanketed the highway for over an hour.

Last Friday just before noon, a fire hit the house of 75-year-old Chinese artist Lung Kung on Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa.

On April 16, a fire razed to the ground two houses and also engulfed the interior of an adjacent house along Ellegh Avenue in San Jose.

Last April 12, a fire struck the Islander Club behind the Gold Beach Hotel on Pupulu Drive in Garapan.

Last April 10 and 11, bush fires swept a big area and burned several banana plants at the former Botanical Garden in Papago.

IT&E donates $5K ETC to public library

CLARISSA V. DAVID
IT&E regional controller Rose Soledad (second left), marketing manager Hans Mickelson (right), and marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala (left) present the $5,000 worth of educational tax credit donation to Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver Gonzales at the Rey Lounge of Aqua Resort Club yesterday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Telecommunications company IT&E on Wednesday donated $5,000 worth of educational tax credit to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

IT&E officials led by regional controller Rose Soledad, marketing manager Hans Mickelson, and marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala presented the check to library executive director John Oliver Gonzales, immediately after sister company IP&E launched its enhanced electronic loyalty program at Aqua Resort Club's Rey Lounge.

This marks the second year that IT&E donated tax dollars to the Commonwealth's state public library, according to Ruszala.

He noted that they receive requests for assistance from various institutions on island, including schools and individual clubs and it is "difficult" for them to choose which one to help.

He said IT&E decided on Joeten-Kiyu Public Library since helping the library "would help everybody."

"It does so much for the community and that's one way that we can affect everybody instead of just giving it to one school or one institution. Helping the library helps the community at whole," said Ruszala as he also commended the library executive director for "doing a lot of great work."

Gonzales said the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is "eternally grateful" for IT&E's donation.

"It will have a more pronounced impact in terms of transforming that into value benefits for our community, especially acquiring new collections to replace damaged or lost collections so that we can continue to provide and open doors of literacy to those that need it the most and those who truly need to learn how to read and to these life-long literate members of the community," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

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Healthcare corp. expects $657.8K for emergency preparedness

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Leonard Manuel sings Beyonce's *Listen* during the Marianas Idol competition on May 4 at the Northern Marianas College.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. expects the approval of a cooperative agreement that would give the corporation $657,810 to strengthen all-hazards emergency preparedness in the CNMI.

The Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement would enable the corporation to achieve 15 public health and hospital preparedness capabilities and other activities that promote safer and more resilient communities.

"These funds work to secure the CNMI from all public health threats," said corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta.

Babauta said the cooperative agreement was submitted "early this year" and is something that the Commonwealth needs to reapply for annually.

"A lot of it goes into staffing, equipment, and supplies for readiness for any kind of disaster," he told *Saipan Tribune*, noting that the approval of the cooperative agreement will be announce "anytime now."

The agreement, administered by the corporation's Emergency Preparedness Program led by director Warren F. Villagomez, is under the review of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In a statement, the corporation said the CNMI has made "tremendous" advances in public health and hospital preparedness and response since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Among the areas focused on by the cooperative agreement include advancing public health and hospital preparedness for public health surveillance, community preparedness, medical countermeasure dispensing, responder safety and health, emergency operations coordination, and emergency public information and warning.

The cooperative agreement also deals with lessons learned during recent large-scale incidents like the H1N1 influenza pandemic response by encouraging health departments to develop and implement strategies for effective local emergency response.

Manuel conquers Marianas Idol

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

His rendition of Beyonce's *Listen* earned Leonard Manuel the first place in the recently held Marianas Idol competition, which was among the highlights of the Northern Marianas College Charter Day festivities last May 4.

Santiago

Yamada

Manuel outshone five other aspiring singers in the quest to win $150 cash, an IT&E phone, two T-shirts, one 7-Up gift certificate from Pacific Trading Co., and a $20 gift certificate from Rock Steady shop.

Coming in at second place was Donato Santiago Jr. who won $100 cash, a prize package and a T-shirt from PTC, and a $20 gift certificate from Rock Steady for his version of *Greatest Love of All*.

Winning third place for her rendition of *Stand Up for Love* was Julie Yamada, who took home $50 cash, and a prize package and T-shirt from PTC.

Other contestants were Akeiko Dela Cruz who sang *It Will Rain*, Isabelle Evangelista who sang *No One,* and Bert Magallano who sang *Cry Me A River*.

The contestants were judged based on their vocal quality, vocal expression, stage presence, entertainment value, and overall performance.

The panel of judges consisted of IT&E's Brad Ruszala, and NMC's Leo Pangelinan and Ian Romolor.

Frankie Eliptico, Charter Day committee chair, said the Marianas Idol competition has always been a crowd-drawing event and is one of the highlights of the annual Charter Day celebration.

"We are really proud of all the contestants who participated. They all performed impressively and they all wowed the audience with their talents," he said.

Eliptico also acknowledged all their corporate sponsors for donating prizes to the Marianas Idol winners.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy, happy 6th birthday to our "double trouble" *dingas*, Jaron Albert and Jaren Allan Lifoifoi! We love you both very much! Greetings come from the *familia*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Auntie Jen, who is celebrating her birthday today, May 10. Enjoy your birthday. Greetings come from the Castro kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Power outages in As Perdido, Kagman on Sat.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled two three-hour power interruptions this Saturday, May 12, 2012, so its men could do repair work in As Perdido and Kagman.

The power outage in Kagman will be from 5:30am to 8:30am and will affect Kagman Road (Joeten Kagman, Santa Soledad Church, Juvenile Center, Laolao Bay Golf Course and Resort, Kagman Fire Station, Kagman Elementary School, Kagman High School, Chacha Ocean View Junior High School, and Kagman 1,2,3,4).

The purpose of this interruption is to de-energize the primary lines so that CUC line crew may work safely as they replace a defective parallel switch in the As Perdido area near William S. Reyes Elementary School. This switch will provide the linemen the ability to isolate problematic areas on the Kiya I and Kiya II electrical circuits. It will also enable workers to parallel the two Kiya circuits, minimizing the number of customers inconvenienced during future repairs or maintenance on the electrical grid. In addition, other line crew will be clearing vegetations from the de-energized primary lines.

The second power outage will be from 2pm to 5pm and will affect areas along As Perdido Road, including Pegge Pl., Aplok Dr., Bayak Dr, Faha Pl., Afula Ln., Maguro Dr., Nufo Pl., Teodoro Dr., Ramona Ln., Niyok Dr., Henaro Pl., and Iriko Ln.

This outage will allow CUC line crew to replace rusted and deteriorated power pole hardware in the Kagman 2 homestead area. CUC plans to continue its ongoing systems maintenance in the Kagman area to secure the electrical system, so future power outages will be scheduled.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. ***(CUC)***

Marianas Eye saves lives with new software

Marianas Eye Institute introduces a new software that provides patients with safer and more convenient way of getting their prescriptions filled. ePrescibe is the latest medical application designed to improve the accuracy and efficiency of how the medical industry processes prescription medication.

Marianas Eye Institute has been using Electronic Health Records for the past 15 years. Dr. David Khorram, founder and Medical Director, believes in using new technologies early on in the startup process.

"When we started, I was fortunate that the cofounder and office manager of Marianas Eye Institute at the time, my wife, Mara, had significant experience as a healthcare administrator, specifically in the area of health information," said Khorram. "She led the way in ensuring that from our first day of seeing patients, we were using Electronic Health Records. This was long before the benefits were widely recognized."

Last year new regulations were initiated by the federal government to encourage medical facilities to move towards EHR's, which allow doctors to manage patient care in a more efficient manner. These regulations guide clinics to provide "Meaningful Use," a set of standards and criteria that all participating clinics must follow in order to be compliant.

Electronic Prescribing or ePrescribe or even eRX is an important step in this process. Marianas Eye Institute uses its EHR software to connect with the islands' local pharmacies—or any pharmacy in the nation.

"eRX allows the prescription to go directly to the pharmacy of patient's choice. This gets the prescription processed at the pharmacy before the patient arrives. This convenience results in shorter waiting times," explained Dr. Mark Robertson.

Besides the convenience, Robertson notes that ePrescribe tracks all the medications the patient is taking and provides notices of conflicting medications. "This is key to preventing potentially adverse effects with other medications the patient may be taking," he added.

Finally, it provides a clear, easy-to-read prescription. There is less likely to be a misinterpretation or reading of what the doctor is asking.

"These features of E-prescribing definitely improve safety for our patients," said Khorram.

Marianas Eye Institute CEO Russ Quinn said they have been working with their medical software company to make this a reality. "New federal initiatives are pushing clinics toward 'paperless' offices, and ePrescribe is a big part of this. We're in a small percentage of clinics nationwide that has such a long track record in using electronic health records, so the transition is definitely smoother for our patients than for most."

Marianas Eye Institute provides complete family eye care. It is located across the street from the 13 Fishermen's Monument on Beach Road in Garapan. Call 235-9090 or visit www.MarianasEye.com. ***(PR)***

PACIFIC FLOWER CLARISSA V. DAVID

A young member of Pacific Flower smiles as the performing group concludes one of their dances at the opening ceremony for the annual Taste of the Marianas, which kicked off on May 5, 2012, at the American Memorial Park. The food festival will be held every Saturday during the entire month of May, which has been designated as "Tourism Month."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS progress reports out today

Mid-term progress reports will be distributed to all Marianas High School students on May 10, 2012. We decided not to have a "half-day" for many reasons—mainly Advanced Placement testing, but also to guard instructional time that is shortened because of the many assessments we give students during the 4th quarter. As always, parents are welcome to set appointments with teachers or counselors. You may call 237-3206 to be connected with a teacher or to leave a message. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 to host trash-a-thon

This is to invite Marianas High School Class of 1983 for Trash-A-Thon this coming May 26, 2012, Saturday, at 2pm at the Civic Center Beach Pavilion. Also, we're looking for softball alumni teams this coming June 2012. You may contact Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665 for more details. ***(PR)***

NMC gaduation 2012 important dates

The Northern Marianas College is inviting all community members to its 32nd Commencement Exercise on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 4pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The college is also reminding all graduating NMC students to note the following important dates:

- May 15, Tuesday: Graduation Class meeting, 4pm in Room D-1 (NMC As Terlaje campus)
- May 17, Thursday: Graduation Mass, 3pm at San Vicente Church
- May 18, Friday: Graduation Rehearsal, 4pm at the MHS Gym
- May 19, Saturday: NMC 32nd Commencement Exercise, 4pm at the MHS Gym

Graduation candidates are advised to arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the NMC Graduation Mass and Graduation Rehearsal, and one hour prior to the start of the Commencement Exercise. Candidates are also encouraged to wear their graduation gowns to the Graduation Mass. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 10, 1999

CNMI's pitch to become a retirement hub gains support

After their short stay in the CNMI, a number of military personnel have already expressed interest in establishing residency and retiring in the Northern Marianas. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently received a number of inquiries which prove that the islands have become more than just a destination where US Navy men and women can enjoy their brief rest and recreationAt the same time, Capt. John J. Donnelly, Chief of Staff of the US Seventh Fleet, has invited Chamber members to visit Yokosuka, Japan to promote the Northern Marianas to the officers and their families who are stationed there. He has also recommended that CNMI officials promote the Northern Marianas as a family destination to other military bases throughout Asia.

AG's Cup tackles Article 12

A sophomore student of the Marianas Baptist Academy is this year's Attorney General's Cup Winner. Ramona Concepcion, who favored keeping the Article 12 but with certain revisions, bested other six speakers from various high schools in the CNMI. The 16th Annual AG's Cup, which focused its discussion on whether land ownership should continue to be restricted to NMI descent, had gathered speakers who mostly favored the restriction.

May 10, 2000

BOE reinforces rule on attendance

The State Board of Education has reinforced a rule directing Public School System principals, supervisors, and staff to adhere to the absence without leave policy where non-compliance could lead to dismissal, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos yesterday said. Though this rule has been in existence in the school system's regulations for a long period of time, Dr. Inos explained PSS supervisors have had a hard time implementing this in their areas of jurisdiction. She added there has been a need to provide guidance in terms of the rule's implementation.

House rejects proposed scholarship program

The House of Representatives yesterday axed a proposed scholarship program for government employees wishing to obtain a college degree due to potential funding problem as it would allow recipients to take a leave from work for up to four years with pay on top of the educational aid. A last-minute attempt by some members to save the measure failed as the House leadership stood pat in its decision. The 18-member chamber voted 9-7 to defeat a motion to refer it back to the Committee on Education. House Bill 12-102, offered by Rep. Jesus T. Attao, sought to create a new scholarship program funded by the government for its employees to obtain degrees in order to meet the requirements for "hard-to-fill" positions such as accountants, teachers and auditors.

May 10, 2001

Election pact OKd for teachers' rep to BOE

The Association of Commonwealth Teachers has approved an election protocol open to all public school teachers. The protocol is the result of thoughtful deliberation and input from educators, committees and school representatives. For several months, ACT met with different school administrations to discuss the election issue. Last month, the association revised and adopted the election protocol to the Public School System School Board in hopes to allow teachers full participation in the selection process for their Board of Education teacher-representative. The ACT advised that all teachers are welcome to run for the said position. Those who wished to seek the BOE seat will be tapped to represent the CNMI teachers and to present youth programs and how to improve the teaching profession in the Northern Marianas.

3-yr. limit mix-up leads economy in greater peril

Bringing the three-year limit stay issue to the electorate would further delay moves to resolve long standing legislative measures calling for the total repeal of the existing statute. Members of the House of Representatives yesterday lamented that a delay on the resolution of the three-year limit issue would hurt the local economy deeper. In fact, the proposed referendum on the stay limit law which was offered to coincide with the November election, will bring undue burden to businessmen.

SHEFA issues over $193K for scholars

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance office has already begun distributing some 110 checks amounting to $193,600 to its scholars for the spring semester.

Administrator Henry Hofschneider said yesterday that they began distributing the checks to on island scholars since Thursday while mailing out the checks for off-island students this week.

Hofschneider said that these checks cover the first two lists of scholars that they submitted for check issuance. The lists were submitted in February and April.

"Disbursement is a bit faster this term compared to last term, which saw a long delay. For this semester, we were expecting to issue the checks later but we did it ahead of time," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

He noted that the early disbursement of scholarship funds from the Department of Finance and its Treasury Division allowed them to issue the checks earlier than expected.

"We thank the lieutenant governor, Finance, and the Treasury for disbursing the funds early. It's always good to say thank you to them," he added.

Hofschneider said they are pleased to disburse "most" of the checks before semester ends.

He said there is a third list, composed of about 15 checks amounting to $31,000, which was submitted two weeks ago or "very late" since they had to do a second review.

Winning talents come together in concert

The winning talents of Saipan that captured major prizes at this year's Tumon Bay Music Festival will be coming together in a youth concert this Friday to benefit the Public School System.

The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band and Marianas High School Glee Club is teaming up with the Yonsei Academy and the DoReMi Music School in the 1st Youth Music Concert of Saipan on Friday, May 11, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

Youngmi Han of Yonsei Academy is putting together this youth music concert that will also feature six pianists and one vocalist. She said that all proceeds from the concert will be donated to PSS.

Han, a piano teacher at the Yonsei Academy, believes that "students' hard work will give happiness to the people of Saipan."

Tickets will be sold at the door for $5 each. Donations will also be accepted at the door, to be turned over later to PSS. ***(Regina Terlaje)***

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
P.O. Box 501000 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950

ANNOUNCEMENT

LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Opening Date: May 8, 2012 ***Closing Date:*** May 22, 2012

The Division of Youth Services Family Support Services under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be opening thirty (30) job skills training opportunities that will be funded under the Community Services Block Grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The training will commence from June 4th to September 30th, 2012 and will cover the following program areas: CHILDREN'S PROGRAM; PROGRAM ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES. Some specific responsibilities include, but not limited to:

- Participating in Innovative and informative trainings offered by DYS
- Establishing positive collaborative relationships with the community
- Acting as outreach liaison between DYS and the community
- Creating culturally-sensitive and competent services in the community
- Attending relevant community meetings to become familiar with the social services
- Conducting community needs assessment through various community outlets
- Performing other duties as assigned

The purpose of this program is to support activities designed to assist low-income families and individuals through training opportunities and at the same time receive stipend for the commitment demonstrated in strengthening youth development and prevention programs in the community.

Specific information on program requirements and applications may be picked up at the DYS Family Services Unit, House #1340 in Capitol Hill. For further information, please contact Josephine Rabauliman or Alex Olopai at 664-2552/2555.

This ad has been paid for by the Community Services Block Grant under
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

When American narratives collide

By JOSEPH J. ELLIS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The most famous speech in American history begins this way: "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." Lincoln's eloquence at Gettysburg was lyrical but not historically accurate. For no such thing as a "new nation" had been proposed in 1776; only a temporary union of sovereign states, declaring their independence from Britain, then presumably going their separate ways.

Indeed, the magic words of the Declaration of Independence to which Lincoln referred, Thomas Jefferson's words starting with "We hold these truths to be self-evident," located sovereignty in neither the national nor state governments but in the souls of individual citizens. Taken literally, this was a recipe for anarchy. Taken seriously, this meant that any robust expression of government power was put on the permanent defensive. Government was "them," not "us."

During the summer of 1776, then, the libertarian and anti-government values currently embraced by the "tea party" conservatives were, in fact, central features of the founding moment of the United States. While evangelicals will have a very hard time claiming Jefferson as one of their own, the original ethos of the American Revolution is, at least rhetorically, compatible with the political agenda of the contemporary conservative movement.

Of course there was a second founding moment in 1787, when a more expansive role for government was enshrined in the Constitution, and a framework created to sustain a dialogue about that role.

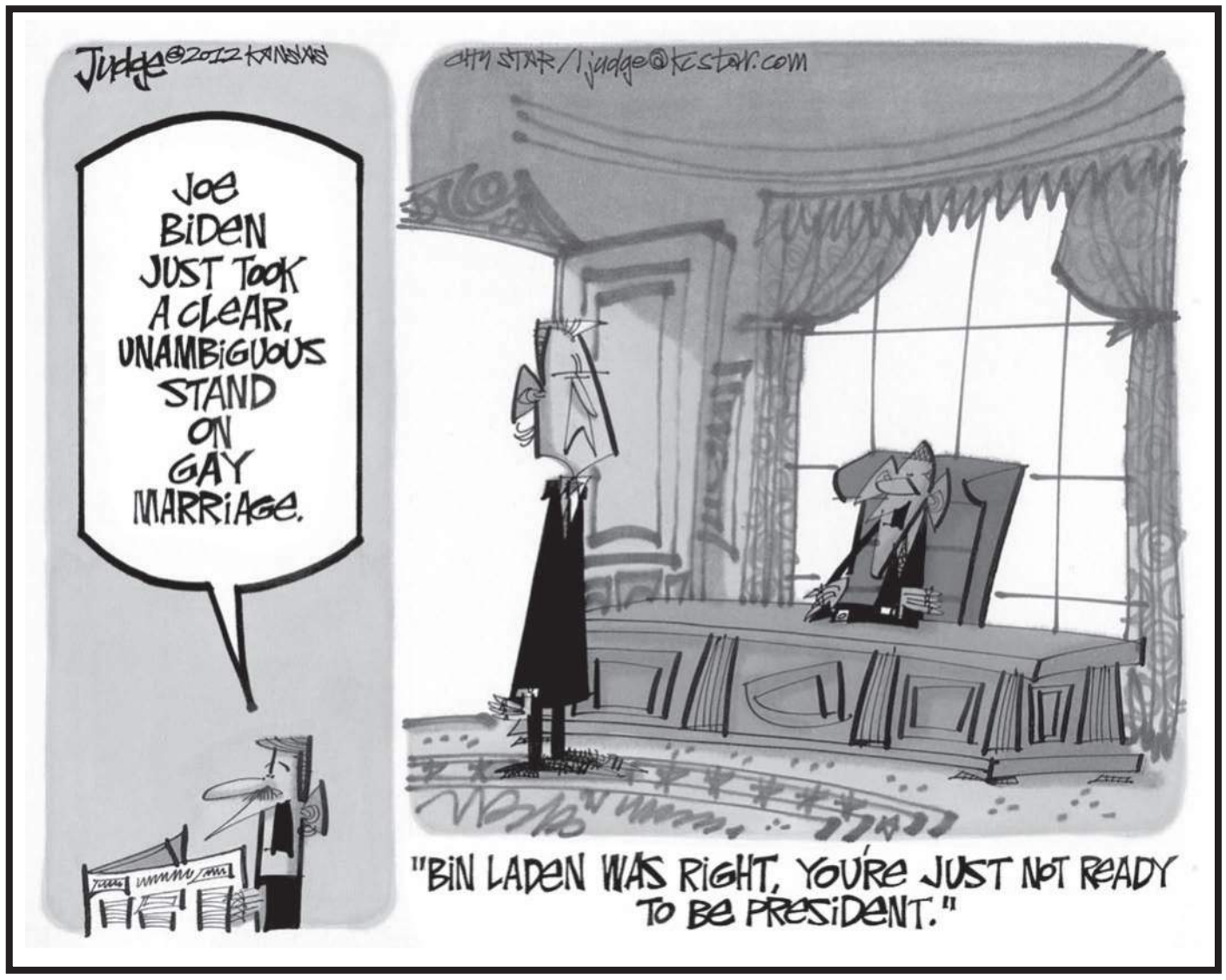
Then there was, in effect, a third founding, in the wake of the Civil War, which established the supremacy of the Union over the states (this was why Lincoln reinterpreted the American Revolution in the Gettysburg Address). As historian James McPherson has so nicely put it, after the Civil War the term "United States" became a singular rather than plural noun.

Finally, at the dawn of the 20th century, both Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson led another expansion of federal authority, eventually consolidated in Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. FDR explained it best in his 1932 Commonwealth Club address in which he described the end of the frontier, the shift from an agrarian to an industrial society and the social and economic inequalities and dislocations generated by laissez-faire capitalism (that is, the Depression) as developments requiring what we now call the liberal state. Government had become "us" rather than "them."

This brief tour of American history, which could be extended to include Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society, reveals that modern-day conservatives have "the spirit of '76" on their side, as well as the power of Jefferson's original formulation of the American creed. Liberals, on the other hand, have the arc of American history on their side, which until the presidency of Ronald Reagan seemed to have the final word in the debate. After all, who could imagine a successful political movement requiring the revocation of two centuries of American history? Barry Goldwater, who campaigned for president in 1964 on just such a radical agenda, received only 38 percent of the vote.

While realistically this is still so—unless American voters are prepared to dispense with Medicare, Social Security, the Federal Reserve Board and even our existence as a sovereign nation-state—at least rhetorically conservatives have a narrative advantage. That is, their story of individual freedom and tyranni-

See AMERICAN on Next Page


Judge ©2012 KANSAS
JOE BIDEN JUST TOOK A CLEAR, UNAMBIGUOUS STAND ON GAY MARRIAGE.
city star / judge@kcstar.com
"BIN LADEN WAS RIGHT, YOU'RE JUST NOT READY TO BE PRESIDENT."

Mahal na likha

By JAIME R. VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"Maharlika" has been around a while, referring to the ruling class in stratified Philippine society, and Ferdinand Marcos' minions at the '70s education department played with the word to designate the new citizen of the New Society in the 1972 Martial Law dispensation.

The influx of the Maharlikas into the CNMI in the '80s was fueled by the then emerging textile industry, enabled by the ease by which Pinoys segued into the English environment that made them eminently qualified to staff front offices and organize the requisite files for audit and evaluation. It was later, when many saw the inequities prevailing not only on the factory floors but also in the racist valuation of labor and services, abetted by hotel employee cousins from Honolulu, that Maharlika voices found its own in organizing united efforts.

The Pinay maid-to-order found herself a choice employee around the world so much so that the Oxford English dictionary, faithful to frequency and breadth of use, found the word "Filipina" to be synonymous to "nanny." It was in the '70s also when a well-placed Marcos government functionary of our acquaintance took her summers off to be an au pair to a Swiss family who made her a regular in their employ. That all-expense paid trip constituted her European holiday. Smart lady, she was, save that she did not want anyone to know, let alone her compatriots in Europe.

I had lived in the Marshalls and Guam in the early '80s, and my first foray into Saipan at the turn of that decade was on the invitation of a Guam acquaintance who had returned to the CNMI nursing a desire to enter elected office. The invite included an all-expense-paid week into Mt. Tapochao's shadow where, in watching the peculiar nature of launching a local political career, we were offered the prospect of making a bundle by importing quality human personnel from Pea Eye. The timing was off, was my excuse, though it was a no-brainer to decline given the dismal treatment of imported contract worker, taken for granted and casually tolerated.

In the late '90s, we returned to cleric the local English congregation of the United Methodist Church at Koblerville. It was a vocational decision, responding to Barbara Ripple (hubby Jim, erstwhile of the CDA, died last December) who posed the task of shepherding a community of diverse ethnicity and persuasions. Of ecumenical bent and a renegade existential theolog amidst an irrelevant orthodoxy, the challenge posed by the group pried us out of training welfare recipients in Hawaii's workforce into the pleasantly mild and not too balmy weather along the lagoon.

The fit proved awkward. But I latched on again to the etymology of Maharlika as "mahal na likha," a precious creature in life's sumptuous celebration. Life's beloveds, SJ Fr. Gary Bradley easily

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

fitted the category, one of the few on island, do not begin from the confessional cry of original depravity and sin sanctified by martyrs in the manner of Sanvitores.

"Maharlika/mahal na likha" in our book are also those afflicted with TSD, a curious but rare disorder not very rampant on Saipan, but of the few contracted patients, they display the patience of saints toward our common follies and quietly go about their business of bringing sanity into our midst.

My Pinoy compatriots latched on to the term as well but carried with it the ruling status in the old peninsula oligarchic pattern, or lifted it to the level of a patronized lass in idealized chivalrous state of guided democratic existence. Such was the sense I gathered from the folks on the 6th floor of the old Nauru building whose functions I avoided like the plague, until the genial unpretentious touch of Jeremy Max's dad (now, numero uno in Havana) convinced us to re-establish our legal Pinoy heritage.

The recent news that the Philippines is finally a net creditor in world financial institutions is due to no small measure on the remittances that the Pinoy population in diaspora remits to kin and country. My mother's Laoag City in Ilocandia alone, I was told, has 20 or more offshore banks that process the banking transactions.

That the red-white-and-blue bureaucratic flagship of South China Sea's archipelago is scheduled to march out of the Ada International Airport end of October says a lot about the economic health of the CNMI and the Pinoy's level-headed resilience in maximizing the utility of its services.

The use of the term "Maharlika" is waning, consigned to designating a section of the newspaper, but the reality of the precious creature evangelizing its message of unconditional life affirmation through word and deed continues around the globe. If the Pinoy can only shake off his predilection to status and showing off "recognitions" over his peers, we might have a natural Order of Mahal Na Likhas. Alas, the chance is grossly missed by a mile.

Happily, the world does not turn on the heels of the despair and cynicism of the horde. Maharlika's formal organizing of united fronts on Saipan might have been stillborn, and perceived efforts severely punished (early PSS contracted teachers), but the head of hope keeps popping up. Check out Abundance: The Future is Better Than You Think available at Amazon. The "mahal na likha," they will always be with us!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Let the voters decide

The rejection of SLI-17-10 by the Senate leads me to believe that they do not fully comprehend the devastating effect Article 12 is now causing the owners of private land in the CNMI. My biggest concern with Article 12 is the eventual deprivation of ownership of land by our future generations. Worse yet, the damage is affecting us now.

Section 4 of Article 12 defines "Northern Marianas Descent" or NMD…as a person who is a citizen or national of the United States and who is of "*at least one-quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof...*" This tells me that a person whose blood quantum is less than one-quarter Chamorro or Carolinian blood or a combination thereof will not have the right to own land, no matter what.

Section 4 goes on to state *"…a person shall be considered to be a full-blooded Northern Marianas Chamorro or Carolinian if that person was born or domiciled in the Northern Mariana Islands by 1950 and was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands before the termination of the Trusteeship…"*

From 1950 onward until the termination of the Trusteeship in November 1986, we had the U.S. Navy administering Saipan. Tinian and Rota was administered by the TTPI. The U.S. Coast Guard was here also. Some of our own family members "intermarried" with non-NMD's.

In 1962 when the Navy moved out of Saipan, the U.S. Trust Territory Government Headquarters was established. Many of its employees were mixed: Micronesians, Guamanians, Filipinos, Americans, etc. Some of these employees "intermarried with NMD's.

After we became U.S. Commonwealth in January 1978, many of our young men and women left the CNMI to seek formal postsecondary education. While attending universities in the U.S. or medical school in Fiji, they found someone they love and were married to non-NMD's.

We continue to witness intermarriages between NMD's and non-NMD's.

Please look around and see what is happening and what is going to happen to the NMDs that our leaders are trying to *protect.*

Ironically, some of our members of the current Legislature are at the verge of losing their children's right to own the land they might be planning to pass down to them.

The constitutional definition of NMD began in 1950. Sixty-two years later, there have been a number of NMDs inter-marrying with non-NMDs. On the assumption that 21 years may be determined as one generation, 62 years would equal three generations. The CNMI being a "melting pot" with at least 20 dialects and languages spoken, there is bound to be many intermarriages taking place now. Ethnicity in the CNMI is rapidly changing and there is nothing we can do to stop it. If the Legislature earnestly and honestly wants to protect NMD's then they should pass a law to *outlaw* marriages between NMDs and non-NMDs. Better yet, nullify all marriages between NMDs and non-NMD. Do we think it will work? Of course not.

Wouldn't it be more appropriate to give back the right to own land to the respective owners and keep the government from meddling on our personal affairs? Who can better manage my affairs and my property if not myself, the owner?

Someone recently asked, "…In 75 or 99 years, how is the government going to determine who is NMD and is not NMD? Do we have to see a doctor to take our blood and see if I am an NMD? And if that won't work, I guess we have to hire a lawyer and fight out in court?" Wouldn't it be a lot simpler to give back the "fee simple land" to the owner and let him handle his own affairs?

There are realtors, appraisers, and title insurance companies that are licensed to help out for a fee. Make use of these firms for advice. They have ethical standards under which they operate. Go and see them.

The government has enough headaches without having to take on other people's problems. I ask the lawmakers: Pass the initiative so that voters will exercise their fundamental right to express their views on election day.

David M. Sablan Sr.
Papago, Saipan

Reduce cost of govt to save the Fund

Let's put our current problem with the Retirement Fund into perspective and then do the right thing.

Let's say you employ Cousin Joe and he wants to borrow your car. He insists that he only needs it to run an errand and it will only take a day. You agree and Cousin Joe drops you to work. You call Joe at lunch and he says he's too busy to pick you up but he reassures you he will be there after work. After work, Cousin Joe is nowhere to be found. You call and get no answer. You're concerned about Cousin Joe. Did he get into an accident? Is he injured or worse?

You finally get a ride home from a co-worker and hope Joe is OK. The next morning you have to find a ride to work and you keep calling Joe. You finally get a hold of Joe in the afternoon and he tells you your car has been stolen. You're concerned about Joe's well-being and ask if he is OK. The next day you go to the police and ask for the police report on your stolen car. The police tell you there has been no report of a stolen car. You try to call Joe. No answer. You go home confused and without a car.

As the days progress you begin to find out your employee Cousin Joe has scammed you. While he was receiving paychecks from you, he stole your car by deceiving you, sold your car, and then took the money and ran away to the States.

Remember, Cousin Joe is your employee. Are you going to continue to pay Joe his paycheck or are you going to fire him? Are you going to let bygones be bygones or are you going to sue Joe and try to get your car or money back. Or are you going to blame yourself and walk to work from now on?

Let's just change a few things in our story and see if you answer these questions the same way. Let's say Cousin Joe is the CNMI Legislature (not individuals, the legal body as a whole), and your car is your retirement. Should we the retirees, who have had our money taken from us for 20 or more years, now have to sacrifice for the failure of the Legislature and governors? Why don't we blame Joe (the Legislature) and get our car (retirement) back? All we need to do is transform our Legislature into a part-time body and we can instantly save over $4 million! How bad will this affect us, really? Has the Legislature passed a budget? No. Have they past any legislation to help our economy that has worked? No. Have they done anything to correctly fix retirement and honor the government's side of the contract with you, the retiree, for which they have taken *your* money for 20 plus years? No.

Let's drop the political drama and scare tactics right here, right now. Government employees *still pay* retirement contributions and the government does not put their money into the Retirement Fund. How can you not call that theft? (I'll write another parable on that one). If we constitutionally put the Legislature on a restricted, part-time basis, then we can all make a little time a few weeks a year to oversee them and not allow them to destroy our retirement. Businessmen and -women will not have a monthly changing tax code ruining their business. The stability resulting in a group of lawmakers (not professional politicians) meeting once a year to pass a budget and address *real* concerns of the people will attract new businesses and strengthen our economy. This, and the millions saved from cutting the huge costs of a full-time Legislature, will be enough to bail out a retirement destroyed by full-time politicians.

Retirees, unite! Do *not* allow the same government that took your money for 20-plus years now tell you that *you* have to sacrifice again so they can keep their jobs, keep playing politics, and keep taking your money. Let's get proactive and put a referendum on this next election ballot that makes our Legislature part-time, efficient, and at a greatly reduced cost, more in line with our economy and our paychecks.

Michael Murphy
Capitol Hill, Saipan

Disabilities are a natural part of the human experience

This is an open invitation to the people of Saipan. This Saturday at Pacific Islands Club, we the coalition of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., Trankilu Alternative Financing Program, and the Autism Society of the Northern Marianas Islands are putting on an Autism Awareness Conference for our Saipan community.

Please come and learn more about the history of disability rights in America, our programs, and autism. Autism does not discriminate. It affects all people from all over the world. This is a worldwide phenomenon. More and more children are being diagnosed with autism and in fact in the United States, it was reported this year by the Center for Disease Control that one in 88 among 8-year-olds has a form of autism spectrum disorder.

Please come and learn how disabilities are a natural part of the human experience. Registration begins at 8:30am. The conference begins at 9am and is expected to end at 2pm on Saturday, May 12, 2012. This will include lunch as well.

If you need any special accommodation, do not hesitate to contact our office at (670) 235-7273 or 7274. You can also reach us by TTY at (670) 235-7278 or by fax at (670) 235-7275. If you want to text, you can text me at (670) 287-9205. We hope to see you all there!

Thomas M. Thornburgh
Autism Awareness Month Planner
NMPASI Projects Specialist

Kudos to March Against Cancer

The decision of the March Against Cancer organizers to provide a demonstration booth of self-help massage for prostate cancer survivors was innovative, helpful, and well received. The techniques demonstrated by the two masseuses from Serenity Salon and Spa were informative, practical, simple to learn, and might easily influence the difference between success and failure among males at risk for prostate cancer, females at risk for cervical cancer, and at-risk cyclists.

John B. Joyner, Ph.D.
San Roque, Saipan

Open letter to Zoning

To Zoning Board chair Diego C. Blanco: We understand that your applicant, Top Shot Playstation, is to be given a conditional permit to begin a paintball games facility at the Hosono property in Sadog Tasi. We presume the proposed activity will not begin until the conditions are issued to Top Shot Playstation, and those conditions are made available to the public. We will be pleased to pick up the printed conditions from your office as soon as you can inform us that they are available.

Lupe Camacho Borja-Robinson
John H. Robinson
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

AMERICAN

From Page 10

cal government enjoys a privileged place in the lexicon because of its association with our political origins.

As a historian of those origins, I can tell you that there were dissenting voices back in the summer of 1776, most notably George Washington and John Adams, who regarded Jefferson's dream of pure self-government as a preposterous illusion. Washington even thought that we almost lost the war for independence because of the refusal of the states to provide sufficient support for the Continental Army.

But the dream has proved remarkably resilient because it depicts any conspicuous expression of government power as an alien force and sanctifies the sovereign individual, standing tall against oppression. Even though that story line has been anachronistic for more than a century, it has levitated out of space and time to become a fixture in American mythology, never to be underestimated as a political weapon, especially when wielded by the party out of power.

As Thomas Frank showed in "What's the Matter With Kansas?," lots of Americans vote their convictions rather than their interests. And the most potent conviction in American history has authentic historical origins in the summer of '76. FDR found a way to offer an alternative narrative for the 20th century.

If he is to win re-election, President Obama needs to do the same for the 21st.

Joseph J. Ellis is the author of biographies of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and, most recently, John and Abigail Adams. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

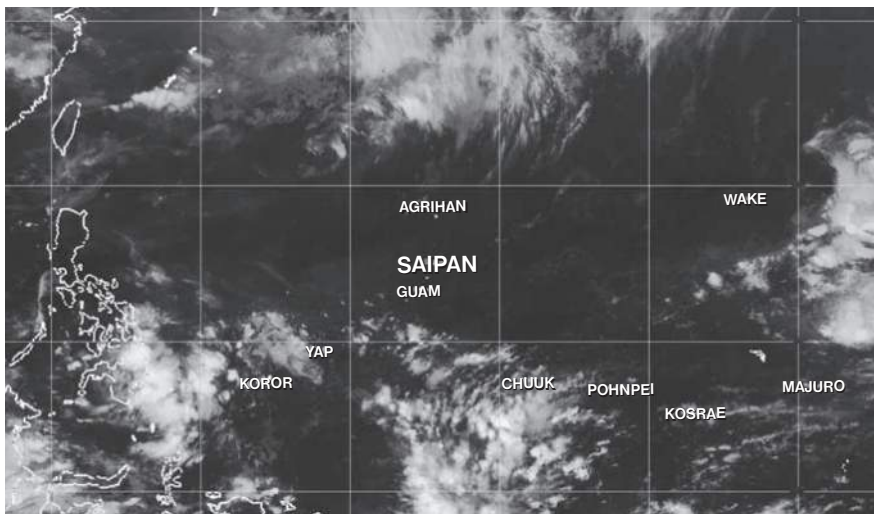
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼59
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲75	▼59
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼70
London	Showers	▲61	▼49
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼50
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Paris	Thundershowers	▲77	▼58
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼54
Rome	Sunny	▲79	▼58
Salem	Sunny	▲64	▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼55
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼55
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼54
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲71	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches eastward from a weak circulation centered southwest of Koror at 5N129E to 3N140E then turns southeastward to end at EQ150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring west of Koror between 10N and 5N from 130E to 134E farther east. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of Chuuk and the Marianas between 10N and the equator from 141E to 157E. A surface trough runs southward from 25N167E to near 14N168E. In addition, a strong mid to upper-level low is centered northeast of Wake Island at 21N171E. These features are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Wake Island within 120 miles of a line from 22N176E to 16N172E to 15N164E and northeast of the Marshall Islands between 14N and 10N from 170E to 176E. Scattered showers are found ahead of a trade-wind surge east of Majuro between 10N and 6N from 171E to 176E and south of Kosrae south of a line from 3N162E to 3N167E. A nearly stationary front extends southwestward from near Iwo To island at 25N142E to end near 22N134E. Scattered showers are located northwest of the Marianas within 70 miles of a line from 22N136E to 25N143E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:50 PM	9:36 AM
Friday	11:39 PM	10:36 AM
Saturday		11:32 AM
Sunday	12:24 AM	12:25 PM
Monday	1:04 AM	1:15 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

C05062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

More than half of Pacific Islanders report multiple races

The U.S. Census Bureau released yesterday a 2010 Census brief, The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2010, that shows more than half (56 percent) of this population, or 685,000 people, reported being Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander in combination with one or more other races. This multiracial group grew by 44 percent from 2000 to 2010.

Overall, 1.2 million people, or 0.4 percent of all people in the United States, identified as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI), either alone or in combination with one or more races. This population grew by 40 percent from 2000 to 2010. Those who reported being Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone totaled 540,000, an increase of 35 percent from 2000 to 2010. The multiple-race Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population, as well as both the alone and alone-or-in-combination populations, all grew at a faster rate than the total U.S. population, which increased by 9.7 percent from 2000 to 2010.

More than half live in Hawaii and California

More than half (52 percent) of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination population lived in just two states, Hawaii (356,000) and California (286,000). The states with the next largest NHPI populations in 2010 were Washington (70,000), Texas (48,000), Florida (40,000), Utah (37,000), New York (36,000), Nevada (33,000), Oregon (26,000) and Arizona (25,000). Together, these 10 states represented more than three-fourths (78 percent) of the NHPI alone-or-in-combination population in the United States.

South experienced fastest growth

The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination population grew in every region between 2000 and 2010, experiencing the fastest growth in the South. The NHPI population grew by 66 percent in the South, by 37 percent in both the Midwest and West, and by 29 percent in the Northeast.

Fastest growth occurred in Southern and Western states

The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination population grew in every state between 2000 and 2010, with the fastest growth in Southern states and in Western states. Fourteen states in the South experienced a growth greater than 50 percent in their NHPI population (Arkansas, Alabama, Delaware, North Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, Oklahoma, Maryland, South Carolina, Virginia and Louisiana). In addition, the NHPI alone-or-in-combination population grew by 68 percent in the District of Columbia.

In the West, the NHPI alone-or-in-combination population grew by at least 50 percent in 10 states (Nevada, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Montana and New Mexico). Seven states in the Midwest (Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Ohio) and one state in the Northeast (Vermont) experienced a growth greater than 50 percent in their NHPI alone-or-in-combination populations.

Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Guamanian or Chamorro largest groups

In the 2010 Census, Native Hawaiian was the largest detailed NHPI group, numbering more than one-half million (527,077). There were 156,146 people who reported Native Hawaiian alone, and an additional 370,931 people who reported Native Hawaiian in combination with one or more other races and/or detailed NHPI groups. Samoan was the second largest detailed NHPI group with 109,637 reporting Samoan alone and an additional 74,803 reporting Samoan in combination with one or more other races and/or detailed NHPI groups. This sums to 184,440 people who reported Samoan alone or in any combination. There were 147,798 people who reported Guamanian or Chamorro either alone (88,310) or in any combination (59,488).

Chuukese fastest growing group

Although Native Hawaiians, Samoans and Guamanians or Chamorros were the largest detailed Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in any combination groups, they grew at slower rates than many of the smaller detailed NHPI groups. Over the decade, the Chuukese population showed the largest percent increase. The Chuukese population in 2010 was more than six times larger than reported in 2000, increasing from less than 700 to more than 4,000.

Guamanian or Chamorro, Marshallese, Fijian increase

The Guamanian or Chamorro alone-or-in-any-combination population had the largest increase in their share of the NHPI population. Over the decade, the Guamanian or Chamorro population increased from 11 percent to 12 percent. The Marshallese alone-or-in-any-combination population more than tripled in size between 2000 and 2010, increasing from less than 7,000 to more than 22,000. The Marshallese population's share of the NHPI population increased by 1.1 percentage points (nearly 16,000 people). Fijians alone or in any combination also increased in their share of the NHPI population (up 1.1 percentage points) with a growth of nearly 19,000 people.

Guamanian or Chamorro population geographically dispersed

Overall, the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population was concentrated in the West, yet some detailed NHPI groups were more geographically dispersed than others. Fijians were the most geographically concentrated in one state, with three-quarters of the Fijian population living in California alone. More than half of all Native Hawaiians lived in Hawaii and almost two-thirds of Tongans lived in California and Utah. Conversely, the Guamanian or Chamorro population was the most geographically dispersed with more than half living in states other than the top three states (California, Washington and Texas) with the largest Guamanian or Chamorro populations.

Race definitions

People who reported only one race on their 2010 Census questionnaire are referred to as the race "alone" population. For example, respondents who marked only a Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander category or categories would be included in the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone population. This population can be viewed as the minimum number of people reporting Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

Individuals who chose more than one of the six race category options on the 2010 Census form are referred to as the race "in combination" population. One way to define the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population is to combine those respondents who reported Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone with those who reported Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander in combination with one or more other races. Another way to think of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination population is as the total number of people who reported Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, whether or not they reported any other races. ***(U.S. Census)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-004

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR ROUTE 30 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT, Project No. CM-NH-0030 (010)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design for Route 30 Safety Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing, and must have a Resident Engineer or Principal-In-Charge for the contract Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

For any contract or subcontract related to engineering or design of a construction project funded in whole or in part with Federal-aid Highway funds, the bid or proposal submitted for the contract, is required to show what the indirect cost (overhead cost not associated with any one particular project defined under 48 CFR §31.203) associated with the project are, to state how the indirect cost figure was reached, and to certify (pursuant to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order No. 4470.1A that they are allowable costs under 48 CFR §31.2.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **May 10, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **May 29, 2012**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, Building 1353, Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **June 14, 2012**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and staff assigned to the project – 25%
2. Experience and past performance of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 20%
4. Schedule of Completion – 30%

Discussion will be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirement and technical approach and selection made therefore, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firm. Such Fee Proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-004"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 20, 2012** AND must be received no later than **July 3, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-005

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR ROUTE 302 IMPROVEMENT, Project No. CM-NH-0302 (001)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design for Route 30 Safety Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing, and must have a Resident Engineer or Principal-In-Charge for the contract Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

For any contract or subcontract related to engineering or design of a construction project funded in whole or in part with Federal-aid Highway funds, the bid or proposal submitted for the contract, is required to show what the indirect cost (overhead cost not associated with any one particular project defined under 48 CFR §31.203) associated with the project are, to state how the indirect cost figure was reached, and to certify (pursuant to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order No. 4470.1A that they are allowable costs under 48 CFR §31.2.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **May 10, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **May 29, 2012**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, Building 1353, Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **June 14, 2012**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and staff assigned to the project – 25%
2. Experience and past performance of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 20%
4. Schedule of Completion – 30%

Discussion will be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirement and technical approach and selection made therefore, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firm. Such Fee Proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-005"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 20, 2012** AND must be received no later than **July 3, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

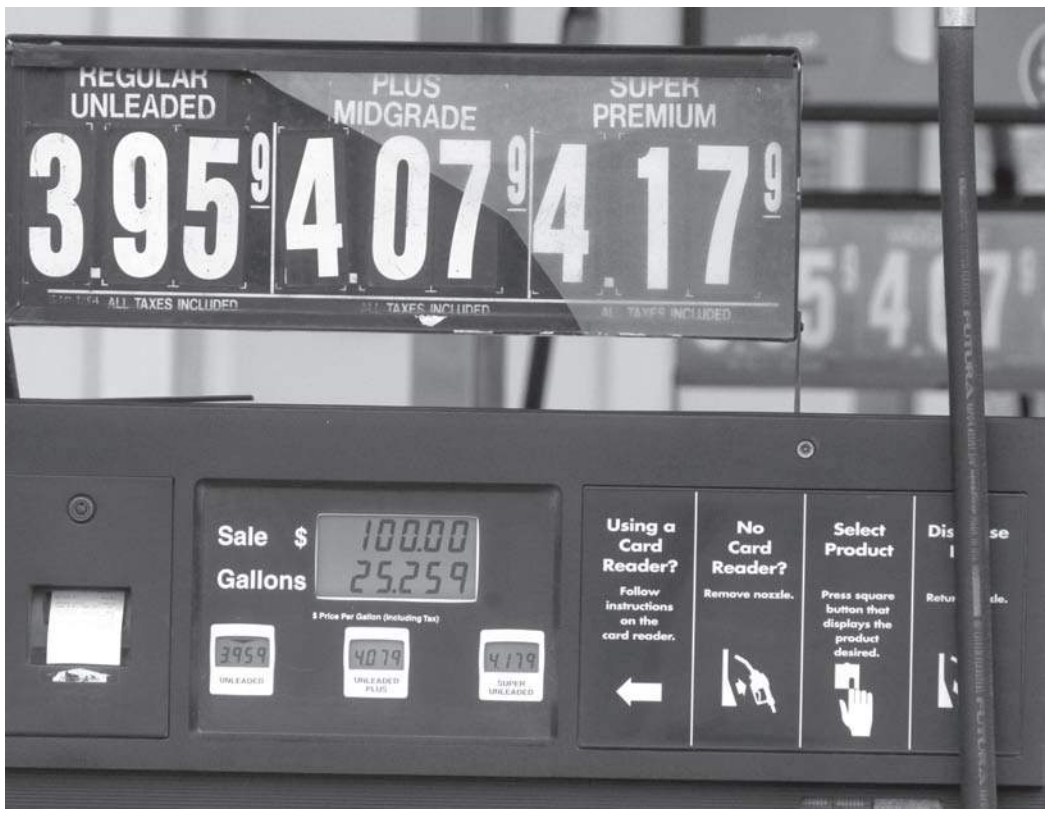
Business

Gas price likely won't set record this summer

NEW YORK (AP)—Gasoline prices likely won't set any records this summer, thanks to a recent drop in the price of oil.

The government on Tuesday slashed its forecast for average gas prices to $3.79 per gallon for the summer driving season. That's down from an initial estimate of $3.95 and below 2008's record average of $3.80.

■■■



AP

This April 20, 2012, file photo, shows a gas pump displaying a $100 sale in Barre Vt.

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell to below $97 a barrel Wednesday in Asia, extending a weeklong slump after a report showed U.S. crude supplies jumped more than expected last week, suggesting demand remains weak.

Benchmark oil for June delivery was down 31 cents to $96.70 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 93 cents to settle at $97.01 in New York on Tuesday.

Brent crude for June delivery was up 38 cents at $113.11 per barrel in London.

■■■

The Energy Information Administration's revised forecast is encouraging news for the economy. Some economists blame high pump prices for so-so consumer spending this year. They were also seen as a factor in the loss of 35,000 retail jobs in February and March.

Gasoline prices soared 20 percent from January to early April.

A few analysts warned drivers they could pay as much as $5 this summer, eclipsing the 2008 record of $4.11 per gallon.

Not anymore. The price of benchmark crude has dropped about $8 per barrel since early April. Retail gas prices have followed, falling 17 cents since reaching $3.936 on April 5.

US employers posted 3.74 million March jobs

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. companies in March posted the highest number of job openings in nearly four years, a sign that hiring could strengthen in the coming months after slowing this spring.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that employers advertised 3.74 million job openings in March. That's up from a revised 3.57 million in February and the most since July 2008, just before the financial crisis erupted.

The increase in U.S. job openings suggests that weaker hiring gains in March and April could be temporary. It usually takes one to three months for employers to fill openings.

Even with the increase, roughly 12.7 million people were unemployed in March. That means an average of 3.4 people competed for each open job. While that's far better than the nearly 7-to-1 ratio when the recession ended. In a healthy job market, the ratio is usually around 2 to 1.

Last week the government said employers added just 115,000 jobs in April and 154,000 in March. That was a sharp decline from December through February, when the economy added an average of 252,000 jobs per month.

Some of the slowdown in job growth in March and April may reflect a payback for unusually warm winter. The warmer weather probably exaggerated job growth in the winter months and is now making the spring gains look smaller.

Jared Franz, an economist at T. Rowe Price in Baltimore, said that increase in job openings was evidence that "steady labor market healing continues."

Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Mizuho Securities, said the report was consistent with gains of 175,000 jobs per month.

House spares Pentagon, homeland security from cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans controlling the House are sparing the Pentagon, military veterans and most homeland security programs from the budget knife as action begins on a set of spending bills setting the day-to-day budgets for federal agencies.

Foreign aid programs would absorb a 5 percent cut in legislation released Tuesday, while the FBI would receive a 2 percent budget hike in a separate measure.

At issue is much of the nuts-and-bolts work of Congress, going line by line through the agency budgets funded each year through 12 appropriations bills. Democrats will support several of the early bills, but the Obama administration has already promised to veto the measures because Republicans are cutting domestic programs below levels agreed to in last summer's budget pact.

But House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., is frontloading the process with legislation backed by Democrats, including measures funding the departments of Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security and Defense.

Democrats spoke glowingly of a $72 billion veterans and military construction measure approved by an Appropriations subpanel by voice vote and also backed a $600 billion-plus measure funding the Pentagon and military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Crisis threatens Europe's storied way of life

By KARL RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elections in France and Greece reflect the anger and disillusionment coming to the surface across Europe as an entire way of life is challenged. The European landscape is undergoing profound change—from its sophisticated lifestyle to its cherished welfare benefits like guaranteed health care and a secure retirement, to a sense among many Europeans of being the world's elite.

Here are some of the ways the continent is grappling with change in this time of economic crisis.

THE WELFARE STATE

Six-week paid vacations. Retirement in your early 60s. Generous benefits for the sick and unemployed.

The cradle-to-grave welfare system that was a pillar of European life for decades is being scaled back from one austerity package to another. Retirement ages are being raised past 65 in many countries. The Swedish prime minister even toyed with the idea of making people work until 75.

Europeans are not about to give up on their fabled social model, but they can expect a slimmed-down version in the future.

"I don't think the social welfare system is being dismantled," says Rebecca Adler-Nissen, assistant professor at the University of Copenhagen's Center for European Politics. "It's more about what we can afford in the future."

LIFESTYLE

Bon-vivants or loafers? When it comes to work-life balance, Europeans either got it totally right or lost their minds completely, depending on whom you ask.

But economic realities are now forcing the most stressed countries to question some deeply ingrained habits. Long lunches are on the wane across the continent. Spain is considering a change that takes aim at the habit of employees turning up for work and immediately going down to the closest coffee shop for a half-hour or more breakfast.

Another sacred cow being targeted is the habit of making a long weekend out of it when a holiday falls on a Thursday. In Ireland, the crisis has had an impact on legendary pub traditions. The Irish increasingly socialize at home, avoiding pubs where beer and other drink prices are several times higher than what's offered by the German discount supermarkets now proliferating in Ireland.

POLITICAL EXTREMES

The National Front in France. Golden Dawn in Greece. The Freedom Party of the Netherlands. The True Finns. Across Western Europe, and in parts of the East, the far-right is on the march.

Europe has deep traditions of tolerance and pluralism with roots in the 18th-century Enlightenment. But European history also offers the most extreme examples of racist nationalism. While outright Nazis are a tiny minority in Europe today, the economic crisis has fueled forces on the right opposed to immigrants and the very idea of European integration.

On the other end of the spectrum, left-wing parties who see the European Union as a capitalist superstate suppressing the working classes have made gains in France, Spain, Greece and Denmark, among other countries.

EUROPE IN THE WORLD

The world still admires French art, Italian food and Spanish soccer. But in the global economy, sluggish Europe is looking less attractive when compared to fast-growing emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil.

That's a blow to the ego of a continent accustomed to seeing itself as having a central place in history. The European Union's seemingly endless debt crisis has seriously damaged confidence in its common currency project. Bickering between nations has also tarnished Europe's self-image as a role model of how nations can come together to build peace and prosperity.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Don't worry, the debt crisis isn't going to shut down the Louvre in Paris or the Vienna State Opera House. Culture will play a central role in European life for the foreseeable future.

But how much of it should be financed by the government? That's a question being asked in many European capitals as budgets are being tightened.

As part of its austerity drive, Spain's new conservative government has eliminated the Culture Ministry as a self-standing institution, merging it with education and sports. A program to subsidize Spanish cinema—which made a name for itself around the world with Oscar-winning directors such as Pedro Almodovar—has been scrapped.

In Sweden, the government has decided to gradually dismantle a subsidy program that provided lifelong income guarantees for artists seen as particularly important to Swedish culture.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,932.09	1,363.71	2,946.27
-76.44	-5.86	0.00
-0.59%	-0.43%	+0.00%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9933	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7618	Philippine Peso	42.445
British Pound	0.6195	Indian Rupee	53.4825	Singapore Dollar	1.2494
Canadian Dollar	1.0017	Indonesian Rupiah	9245.75	South Korean Won	1140.35
Chinese Yuan	6.3099	Japanese Yen	79.7855	Swiss Franc	0.9254
Euro	0.7705	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0665	Taiwan Dollar	29.353
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2742	Thailand Baht	31.03

Nation

Indiana's Lugar loses, NC passes gay marriage ban

WASHINGTON (AP)—Six-term Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar was routed by the right flank of his own Republican Party on Tuesday, and North Carolina voters decided overwhelmingly to strengthen their state's gay marriage ban. It was a double-barreled show of conservative enthusiasm and strength six months before the nation chooses between Democratic President Barack Obama and GOP rival Mitt Romney.

Romney swept three Republican primaries, moving ever closer to sealing his nomination in an otherwise sharply polarized environment.

"We are experiencing deep political divisions in our society right now. These divisions have stalemated progress in critical areas," Lugar, a Capitol Hill diplomat and a deal-maker, said as he conceded to the tea party-backed GOP opponent who ended his nearly four-decade career in the Senate. Lugar's foe, state Treasurer Richard Mourdock, had painted the Republican senator as too moderate for the conservative state.

North Carolinians voted to amend their state constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman, effectively outlawing gay unions through a ballot measure pursued by the right.

Also Tuesday, Democrats overwhelmingly picked Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett to challenge Republican Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker in a June recall election. The primary outcome set up a re-match; Barrett lost to Walker in 2010.

The highly charged and hard-fought contests overshadowed Romney's continued progress toward the GOP presidential nomination. He won the Republican presidential primaries in Indiana, North Carolina and West Virginia on Tuesday, drawing close to the 1,144 delegates he needs to clinch the nomination. He won at least 59 delegates, with 37 still undecided. He had 915 delegates, 229 shy of what he needs to become the formal nominee.

Even Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, was essentially ignoring the primaries. He spent the day campaigning in Michigan, where he castigated Obama as an "old-school liberal" whose policies would take the country backward. And Romney didn't weigh in on the primary outcomes or Lugar's defeat.

The results of Tuesday's far-flung voting gave clues about the state of the electorate—and illustrated the political minefields facing both Republican and Democratic candidates—with the presidential contest well under way. The results were a warning to incumbents. They also highlighted tea party enthusiasm. And, in one state at least, they indicated that wedge issues are still a force even with an electorate focused on economic concerns.

Also, there was an indication of just how unpopular Obama is in some parts of the country.

A man in prison in Texas was getting nearly 4 out of 10 votes in West Virginia's Democratic presidential primary against Obama, who faces no serious primary challenger. The inmate, Keith Judd, is serving time at the Beaumont Federal Correctional Institution in Texas for making threats at the University of New Mexico in 1999.

Within minutes of Lugar's loss, Democrats were already painting Mourdock as too extreme for the state.

Tea party groups were crowing about the win, and Mourdock urged supporters to donate to his general election campaign, saying: "We left everything on the table to win the primary." He will face Democratic Rep. Joe Donnelly in November.

Republicans need to gain four seats to take control of the U.S. Senate, and a Lugar loss "gives Democrats a pickup opportunity," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

Earlier in the day, Lugar, 80, made clear he would stand by Tuesday's outcome, ruling out running as an independent.

"This is it," he said.

With 98 percent of precincts reporting, Lugar had just under 40 percent of the vote to Mourdock's just over 60 percent.

Playing out in a conservative state, the race illustrated the electorate's animosity toward many incumbents and anyone with deep ties to Washington. That was clear when Lugar, who hasn't faced questions about his residency in decades, found himself on the defensive over whether he lived in Indiana or northern Virginia. Lugar also was cast as too moderate for the conservative GOP in Indiana, and he took heat for his work with Democrats on issues such as nuclear nonproliferation, underscoring deep polarization in the country as well as a split in the GOP between the establishment wing and the insurgent tea party.

In a statement, Obama praised his former Senate colleague as someone "who was often willing to reach across the aisle and get things done."

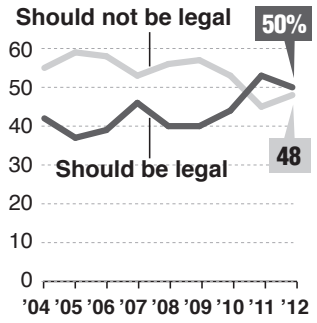
The Mourdock vs. Donnelly match up could develop into a hotly contested race with the potential to affect the White House contest.

Obama carried Indiana in 2008, partly because of his ties to the populous northwestern part of the state neighboring his hometown of Chicago. Democrats acknowledge it will be difficult to win Indiana again this year.

ELECTION 2012

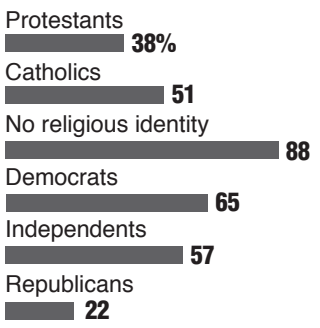
Support for gay marriage

Half of Americans now say gay marriage should be legal with the same rights as traditional marriages.



By religion, political party

Say it should be legal



Source: Gallup poll of 1,024 adults, May 3-5, 2012; margin of error: +/-4 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2012 MCT

ACROSS THE NATION

Wife, mother of kidnap-slaying suspect arrested

GUNTOWN, Miss. (AP)—As the hunt continued for a Mississippi man suspected of killing a Tennessee woman and her teenage daughter before fleeing with her two younger girls, his wife and mother were charged Tuesday in connection with the abduction, authorities said. Teresa Mayes, 30, was charged with especially aggravated kidnapping and Mary Mayes, 65, was charged with conspiracy to commit kidnapping. Authorities on Tuesday continued to search for Adam Mayes 35, and the two young girls—Alexandra Bain, 12, and Kyliyah Bain, 8. Adam Mayes is considered armed and dangerous, authorities said. The FBI said Tuesday authorities are hopeful the two young girls are still alive, but did not elaborate.

Speechwriter says Edwards knew about cover up

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—A former speechwriter for John Edwards testified Tuesday that the onetime presidential candidate acknowledged knowing that a wealthy donor was secretly supporting his pregnant mistress as he sought the White House in 2008. Wendy Button testified at Edwards' corruption trial that she helped him in the summer of 2009 to draft a public statement admitting he had repeatedly lied about fathering a baby girl with his mistress, Rielle Hunter. The testimony came after a donor and policy adviser testified that he warned Barack Obama's presidential campaign about Edwards' infidelity during the summer of 2008. Button said Edwards told her he knew that his campaign finance chairman, Fred Baron, had been financially supporting Hunter and the baby.

Calif. man charged with killing girlfriend, 2 sons

ORANGE, Calif. (AP)—The blood-stained carpet was the first clue Arlet Contreras and her two young sons had not just abandoned their apartment in a gated Orange County complex. Police began looking for them and Contreras' boyfriend, Shazer Fernando Limas, after a cleaning crew discovered the old stains on the walls and under the carpet they were pulling up. When an observant officer spotted Limas in a parking lot in a nearby city, however, the 31-year-old fled, leading police on a high-speed chase that ended with his arrest on three counts of murder.

United States District Court for the
Northern Mariana Islands,
Bankruptcy Division

NORTHERN MARIANNA ISLANDS
RETIREMENT FUND

Bankruptcy Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the United States Trustee's Motion to Dismiss Case ("motion") is set for hearing on June 1, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. The motion sets forth the grounds regarding why the United States Trustee has determined that the Debtor is ineligible to be a chapter 11 debtor, and accordingly, has requested that the case be dismissed. The full contents of the motion is on file with the Court, and a copy can be obtained from the Court. Any response or opposition to the motion must be filed with the Court on or before May 18, 2012 (14 days before the hearing) at: U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands , 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 500687, Saipan, MP 96950 USA
If you mail your response to the Court, you must mail it early enough so the Court will receive it on or before the deadline stated above. The Court may disregard any response filed untimely. You must also mail or transmit a copy of any response or opposition to the moving party at: Office of the United States Trustee, Attn: Curtis Ching, Asst. U.S. Trustee, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 602, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.
If you fail to file a response to this motion within such time period, the Court may treat such failure as a waiver of your right to oppose the motion and may grant the requested relief.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawaii May 9, 2012,

Terri H. Didion,
Trial Attorney for U.S. Trustee

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-006

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR ROUTE 103 IMPROVEMENT, Project No. CM-NH-3103 (001)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Preliminary Engineering Design for Route 30 Safety Improvement on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing, and must have a Resident Engineer or Principal-In-Charge for the contract Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

For any contract or subcontract related to engineering or design of a construction project funded in whole or in part with Federal-aid Highway funds, the bid or proposal submitted for the contract, is required to show what the indirect cost (overhead cost not associated with any one particular project defined under 48 CFR §31.203) associated with the project are, to state how the indirect cost figure was reached, and to certify (pursuant to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order No. 4470.1A that they are allowable costs under 48 CFR §31.2.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **May 10, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai Saipan. A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **May 29, 2012**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, Building 1353, Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **June 14, 2012**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.
Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and staff assigned to the project – 25%
2. Experience and past performance of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 20%
4. Schedule of Completion – 30%

Discussion will be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirement and technical approach and selection made therefore, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited, however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firm. Such Fee Proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-RFP-006"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 20, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 20, 2012** AND must be received no later than **July 3, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.
These projects are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

World

WORLD BRIEFS

UN envoy warns of civil war in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—International envoy Kofi Annan gave a bleak assessment of the crisis in Syria on Tuesday, saying violence remains at "unacceptable levels" and warning that his peace plan is the country's last chance to avert a disastrous civil war. Annan insisted there is still hope and said the presence of U.N. observers has had a calming effect on the crisis, which has killed at least 9,000 people since March 2011. "There is a profound concern that the country could otherwise descend into full civil war and the implications of that are frightening," Annan told reporters in Geneva after briefing a closed-door session of the U.N. Security Council in New York by videoconference. The observation mission, he said, "is the only remaining chance to stabilize the country."

Catholic radio broadcaster killed in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police say motorcycle-riding gunmen have fatally shot an anchorman for a Catholic Church-run radio station in a southern city. Police say they are investigating the motive behind Tuesday's killing of Radio DXHM broadcaster Nestor Sapidan Libaton in Mati city. The U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists called on authorities Wednesday to bring the perpetrators to justice. The watchdog says Libaton is the second media worker killed in as many weeks. It is not clear the killings are work related.

US soldier sentenced to 6 years for rape in SKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A Seoul court has sentenced an American soldier to six years in prison for raping a teenage South Korean girl last year. The Seoul Central District Court's sentencing of Pvt. Kevin Robinson on Wednesday follows the sentencing in November of another U.S. private to 10 years in prison for a similar crime. The two cases rekindled anti-American sentiments in South Korea and prompted U.S. officials to apologize. The United States has 28,500 troops stationed in South Korea as a deterrent against North Korea. U.S. Forces Korea says it's checking whether Robinson intends to appeal.

Mideast nuclear conference in jeopardy

VIENNA (AP)—Hopes dimmed Tuesday for staging major nuclear talks later this year between Israel and its Muslim rivals, as Iran and Arab countries at a 189-nation conference accused Israel of being the greatest threat to peace in the region and Egypt warned that Arab states might rethink their opposition to atomic arms. Because Israel has not signed the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it was not present at Tuesday's gathering of treaty members. But the United States defended its ally, warning that singling out Israel for criticism diminished chances of a planned meeting between it and its Muslim neighbors to explore the prospect of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

Officials: Al-Qaida bomber was CIA informant

WASHINGTON (AP)—The CIA had al-Qaida fooled from the beginning.

Last month, U.S. intelligence learned that al-Qaida's Yemen branch hoped to launch a spectacular attack using a new, nearly undetectable bomb aboard an airliner bound for America, officials say.

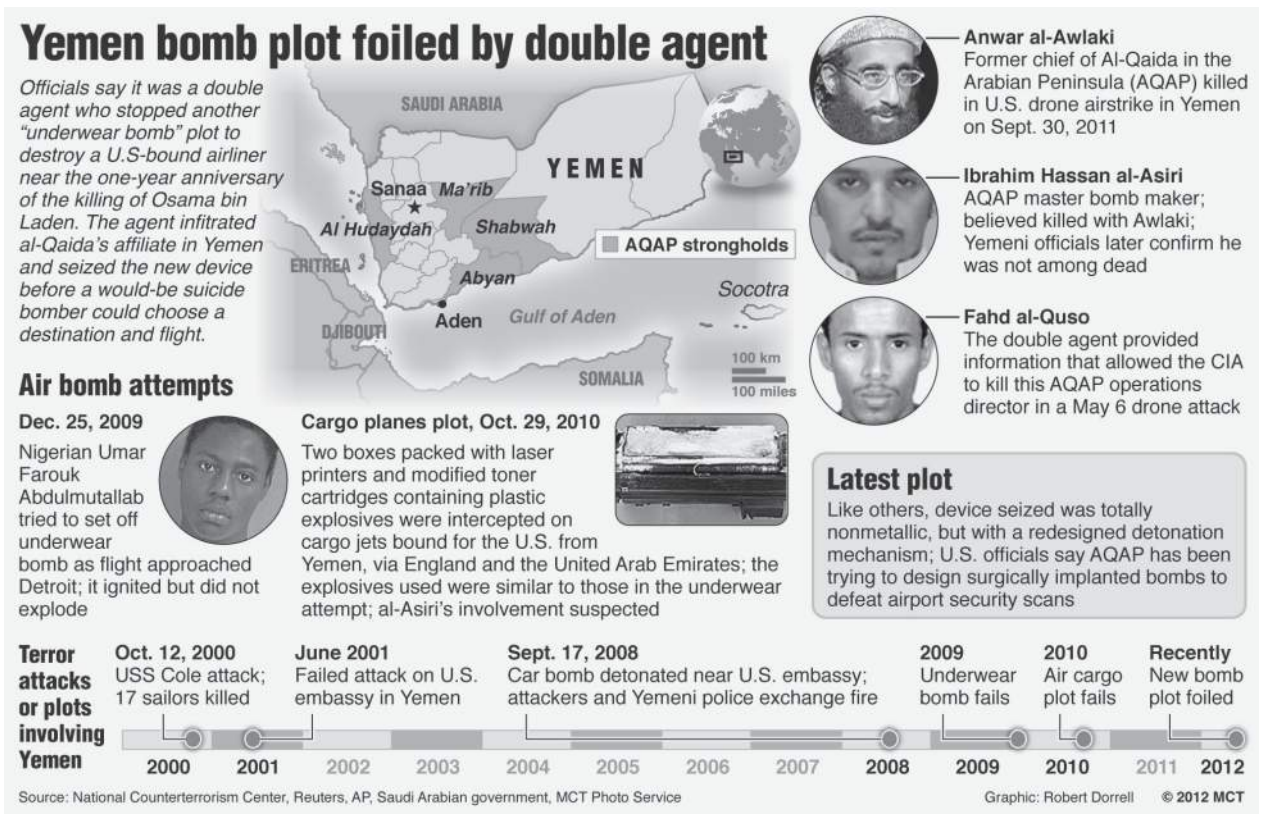
But the man the terrorists were counting on to carry out the attack was actually working for the CIA and Saudi intelligence, U.S. and Yemeni officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The dramatic sting operation thwarted the attack before it had a chance to succeed.

It was the latest misfire for al-Qaida, which has repeatedly come close to detonating a bomb aboard an airliner. For the United State, it was a victory that delivered the bomb intact to U.S. intelligence.

The officials spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the operation. The cooperation of the would-be bomber was first reported Tuesday evening by *The Los Angeles Times*.

The FBI is still analyzing the explosive, which was intended to be concealed in a passenger's underwear. Officials said it was an upgrade over the bomb that failed to detonate on board an airplane over Detroit on Christmas 2009. This new bomb contained no metal and used a chemical—lead azide—that was to be a detonator in a nearly successful 2010 plot to attack cargo planes, officials said.


Yemen bomb plot foiled by double agent
Officials say it was a double agent who stopped another "underwear bomb" plot to destroy a U.S-bound airliner near the one-year anniversary of the killing of Osama bin Laden. The agent infiltrated al-Qaida's affiliate in Yemen and seized the new device before a would-be suicide bomber could choose a destination and flight.
SAUDI ARABIA
YEMEN
Sanaa
Ma'rib
Al Hudaydah
Shabwah
AQAP strongholds
ERITREA
Abyan
Socotra
Aden
Gulf of Aden
DJIBOUTI
SOMALIA
100 km
100 miles
Air bomb attempts
Dec. 25, 2009
Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to set off underwear bomb as flight approached Detroit; it ignited but did not explode
Cargo planes plot, Oct. 29, 2010
Two boxes packed with laser printers and modified toner cartridges containing plastic explosives were intercepted on cargo jets bound for the U.S. from Yemen, via England and the United Arab Emirates; the explosives used were similar to those in the underwear attempt; al-Asiri's involvement suspected
Anwar al-Awlaki
Former chief of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) killed in U.S. drone airstrike in Yemen on Sept. 30, 2011
Ibrahim Hassan al-Asiri
AQAP master bomb maker; believed killed with Awlaki; Yemeni officials later confirm he was not among dead
Fahd al-Quso
The double agent provided information that allowed the CIA to kill this AQAP operations director in a May 6 drone attack
Latest plot
Like others, device seized was totally nonmetallic, but with a redesigned detonation mechanism; U.S. officials say AQAP has been trying to design surgically implanted bombs to defeat airport security scans
Terror attacks or plots involving Yemen
Oct. 12, 2000 USS Cole attack; 17 sailors killed
June 2001 Failed attack on U.S. embassy in Yemen
Sept. 17, 2008 Car bomb detonated near U.S. embassy; attackers and Yemeni police exchange fire
2009 Underwear bomb fails
2010 Air cargo plot fails
Recently New bomb plot foiled
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012
Source: National Counterterrorism Center, Reuters, AP, Saudi Arabian government, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2012 MCT

Security procedures at U.S. airports remained unchanged Tuesday, a reflection of both the U.S. confidence in its security systems and a recognition that the government can't realistically expect travelers to endure much more. Increased costs and delays to airlines and shipping companies could have a global economic impact, too.

"I would not expect any real changes for the traveling public," said House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers, R-Mich. "There is a concern that overseas security doesn't match ours. That's an ongoing challenge."

While airline checks in the United States mean passing through an onerous, sometimes embarrassing series of pat-downs and body scans, procedures overseas can be a mixed bag. The U.S. cannot force other countries to permanently adopt the expensive and intrusive measures that have become common in American airports over the past decade.

The Transportation Security Administration sent advice to some international air carriers and airports about security measures that might stave off an attack from a hidden explosive. It's the same advice the U.S. has issued before, but there was a thought that it might get new attention in light of the foiled plot.

Puerto Rico aims to become fully bilingual by 2022

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The governor of Puerto Rico is trying to do what more than a century of American citizenship has failed to accomplish: make Puerto Ricans fluent in English.

Gov. Luis Fortuno, who has been mentioned as a possible Republican vice-presidential candidate, has proposed an ambitious, and what critics call far-fetched, plan to require all public schools to teach all courses in English instead of Spanish.

The U.S. territory has had a long and contentious relationship with the English language, and many Puerto Ricans are skeptical about embracing it, fearing they will lose a key part of their identity and find themselves a step closer to statehood, a status that only about half of islanders have backed in recent polls.

The governor wants Puerto Rico to become the 51st U.S. state. But he says his plan is about economic necessity, not politics.

"Bilingualism opens doors and provides opportunity to our children so they can shine and become successful in a labor market that is increasingly competitive and globalized," he said.

Only 12 of the island's 1,472 schools offer an all-English curriculum of the sort envisioned by Fortuno, while 35 other schools offer some courses in English, such as math and physical education, said Education Secretary Edwin Moreno.

"The main idea is to have a Puerto Rican who can communicate in Spanish as well as English," said Moreno, who acknowledged that he himself has an imperfect command of English. Moreno is overseeing an initial $15 million project to install a bilingual curriculum in 31 schools starting in August and to reinforce the English-Spanish curriculum already in place in the 35 other schools. Plans for adding the rest are still hazy, but the governor says he wants all public school students to be bilingual within 10 years.

Under the governor's plan, schools would continue to offer Spanish grammar and literature classes.

Aida Diaz, president of the Puerto Rico Teachers Association, said that while she supports bilingual education, the notion of teaching all courses in English is extreme.

"This is wrong," she said. "This leads us to substitute our own language for a secondary one. It should not be that way."

All public schools are currently required to teach English from kindergarten through high school, and 9,000 teachers are devoted to that. But about 96 percent of the island's 3.9 million people speak Spanish at home, and some 2.8 million Puerto Ricans do not consider themselves fluent in English, according to the U.S. Census.

Israel's Netanyahu emerges as strongman with unity deal

JERUSALEM (AP)—Now backed by a parliamentary supermajority, Benjamin Netanyahu has tremendous room to maneuver on Israel's most pressing issues: peace with the Palestinians, possible war with Iran, and the growing rift at home between religious and secular Jews.

The stunning partnership with the opposition Kadima party, announced overnight Tuesday just as the nation was expecting him to call early elections, means the premier—if he so desires—can compromise with the Palestinians without being brought down by hard-line nationalists who had controlled his fate.

"A broad national unity government is good for security, good for the economy, good for the people of Israel," Netanyahu declared at a news conference with Kadima leader Shaul Mofaz, his new deputy prime minister.

Netanyahu

With his coalition divided over a flurry of domestic issues, Netanyahu had declared in recent days that he would hold a parliamentary election in September, more than a year ahead of schedule. But as parliament convened late Monday to move toward elections, he and Mofaz were secretly wrapping up their power-sharing deal. Israelis were stunned to wake up Tuesday to a new political reality.

Netanyahu now heads a 94-member coalition, one of the broadest alliances in the 120-seat parliament in Israeli history—putting him in a strong position to push forward with new initiatives.

While Netanyahu emerges as a winner in that sense, the outcome is also a life raft for Mofaz. Netanyahu had been widely expected to win the election by securing a majority of seats for his Likud and the religious and nationalist parties that are its natural—but pesky—allies. The opposition center-left bloc was behind in the polls—and appeared headed toward splintering into several medium-sized parties to boot.

For Israelis who felt alienated by the Netanyahu government—and they were legion among the country's various elites—there is now the prospect of a more moderate leadership no longer dependent on the extreme right.

At the news conference, Netanyahu boasted of bringing "stability" to Israel's volatile political system, where governments rarely serve their full terms. The revamped coalition is expected to sit through the end of the parliamentary term in October 2013.

Together, he and Mofaz pledged an unspecified reform of the political system, to protect the economy and to tackle the contentious issue of draft exemptions granted to ultra-Orthodox men—numbering in the tens of thousands. The Supreme Court has ordered an end to the exemptions, and divisions between secular and religious parties over the issue had threatened to tear apart the outgoing coalition.

No longer dependent on the smaller factions, Netanyahu now has far more leeway to tackle these issues, as well as sensitive foreign policy matters such as Mideast peace and the Iranian nuclear program.

Focus

EUROPE'S BAD MOOD: Does Obama need to worry?

President Barack Obama walks across the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, May 8, 2012, from a day trip to Albany, N.Y. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—The elections that drove Nicolas Sarkozy out of power in France and left Greece scrambling to build a coalition government pose a financial threat to the United States that could undermine President Barack Obama's efforts to cast himself as the agent of a U.S. economic revival.

For Obama, the danger is that any economic turmoil unleashed by the French and Greek elections will spill over to the United States, slow the recovery even more and, ultimately, further jeopardize his re-election, adding him to the recent roster of politicians whose careers have been short-circuited by economic anger.

At the same time it has shifted Europe's political balance to the left and in favor of the type of economic growth policies that Obama has advocated both for Europe and for the United States.

For Mitt Romney, the all-but-certain Republican presidential challenger, the results in Europe underscore how deeply economic unease affects politics. They feed his camp's underlying storyline: that Obama's economic policies would not safeguard the United States from a widening European recession.

But as a rejection of austerity measures, the European elections also present a cautionary tale for the type of belt-tightening that Romney and congressional Republicans have embraced.

"It is clear there is a lot of economic anxiety in the EU that is affecting world markets, and how that affects the economy will have an impact on voters throughout this summer and into the fall," Romney adviser Kevin Madden said. Obama senior campaign adviser David Axelrod has said repeatedly that the biggest challenge to Obama's re-election is economic developments beyond Obama's control.

"As has happened several times before, when our economy gets going, events elsewhere can intervene and throw a monkey wrench in the works," he said. "We're not hoisting a 'Mission Accomplished' banner. We know there is a lot of work left to be done and the headwinds are part of that equation."

While economic crises appear to be taking their political toll across the Atlantic, the United States is not Europe.

The anti-incumbent mood that swept through France, Greece and Italy in the past three days was fed by grievances that have little resemblance to the anxiety percolating here. Across the Atlantic, voters rebelled against deep austerity measures designed to address the 17-nation eurozone debt crisis. In the U.S., government belt-tightening has been far less severe and the debate has centered on Obama's calls for more short-term spending to stimulate a weak economic recovery.

"The debate we're having here in the United States is different than the one they're having in Europe," Madden said, "but the economy is still the premier issue that voters are using to consider their vote for president in November." Obama advisers are quick to note the difference, saying Obama has pressed for an approach to debt reduction that includes cuts and increased revenue, such as higher taxes on wealthier taxpayers and the elimination of some tax breaks for corporations.

If the elections in Europe represented voters recoiling to austerity measures, Axelrod said, "I don't think we'll get caught up on the wrong side of that debate."

Still, the U.S. economic recovery has been weak and erratic. With millions out of work, the unemployment rate remains above 8 percent, and polls show more people disapproving of Obama's handling of the economy than approving.

> "It is clear there is a lot of economic anxiety in the EU that is affecting world markets, and how that affects the economy will have an impact on voters throughout this summer and into the fall."

The victory of Socialist Francois Hollande over the conservative Sarkozy in France and the losses sustained in Greece and Italy by mainstream parties illustrate the fierce anti-austerity backlash in Europe. But it didn't come as a surprise; since 2009 leaders in virtually every European country that tried to respond to the crisis with austerity measures have lost elections.

The United States economic downturn has not been as severe. The U.S. economy has been growing since 2009, though it has recovered slowly and erratically and has left unemployment still above 8 percent. The policy debate across the country has been one over how to stimulate the economy, with Obama pressing for more spending on jobs programs against Republican objections about the rising cost of government. But even Romney and Republicans, who have made an issue of the nation's rising debt, have proposed modest cuts compared to what Europeans have instituted.

"The European situation is quite different form the U.S.," said Simon Johnson, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former chief economist at the International Monetary fund. "Certainly if you were proposing precipitating immediate austerity in the U.S. you might reconsider it. But that is not what Romney or Obama is going to be proposing."

Romney supports the Republican budget plan offered by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and has called for even steeper domestic spending cuts and higher spending on defense. But even those cuts aren't as steep as what debt-ridden countries like Greece have had to contemplate.

Despite the fear that a European financial collapse could spread to U.S. shores, the Obama administration so far has taken the position that the Europeans can correct their own problems without assistance from the United States. Obama aides have said repeatedly that the president has no intention of adding U.S. taxpayer dollars to the IMF for any possible bailout of a eurozone country, a step that would invite opposition from congressional Republicans.

That leaves Obama with few options to stave off European financial disaster, Johnson said. And even when it comes to protecting the U.S. economy, Obama's best bet rests with the Federal Reserve, which Johnson faulted for letting banks reduce their capital reserves to pay off dividends.

The European financial network, intricately intertwined with the U.S. banking system, looks more precarious after the election results, Johnson said, adding: "We should be building up capital buffers against losses."

The economy aside, the election results in France pose new foreign policy challenges for Obama.

Hollande has vowed to pull French troops out of Afghanistan by the end of the year.

What's more, Obama is looking for European countries to help with the U.S. commitment to assist Afghanistan rebuild and sustain internal security after all U.S. combat troops leave in 2014. Those pledges will be at the center of discussions when Obama hosts fellow leaders for the May20-21 NATO summit in Chicago.

The questions, said Heather Conley of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, is whether Europe can make that commitment based on both its political and austerity constraints.

And, she added, can the U.S. seek such European support without making some financial commitment to helping the eurozone solve its debt crisis.

"It's ironic that at the same moment we're telling them to take care of this yourself," she said, "we are asking them to fulfill their pledge."

Environment

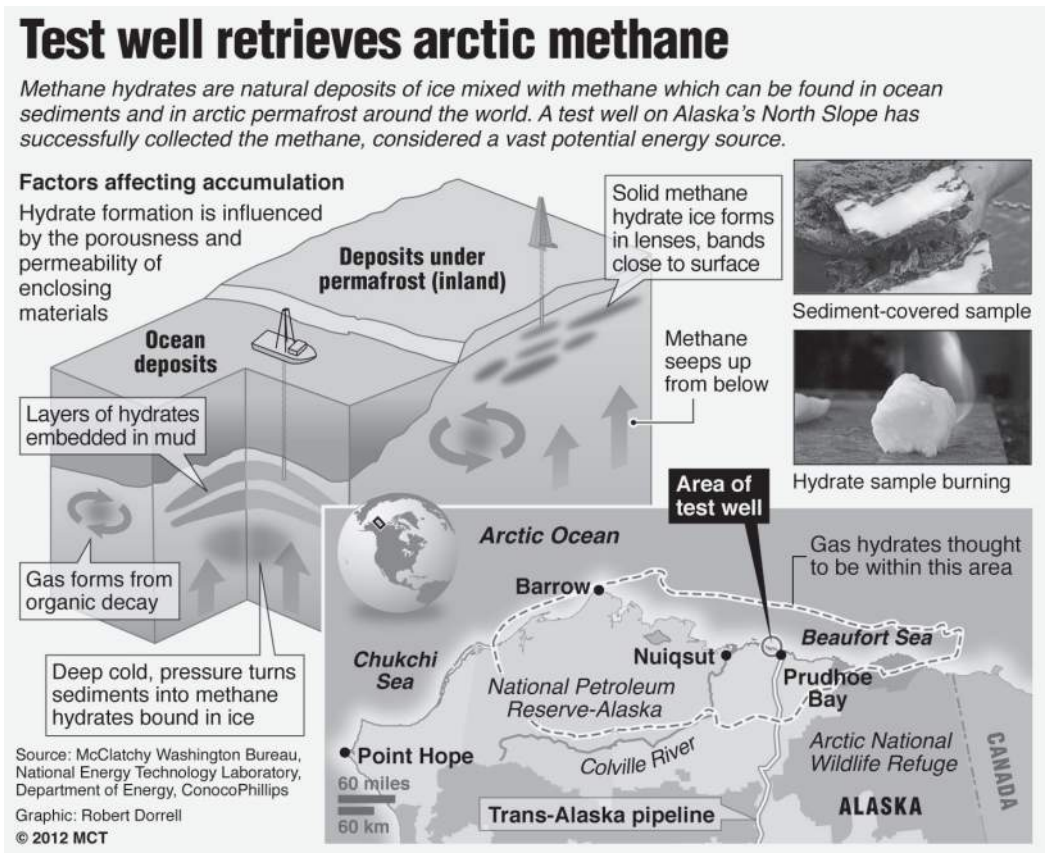
Test successfully pulls natural gas from Alaskan ice

By SEAN COCKERHAM
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—The Department of Energy has successfully completed an unprecedented test of harvesting the vast storehouse on Alaska's North Slope of methane hydrate, essentially natural gas locked in ice crystals under the permafrost.

Producing methane hydrate is still a long way from being commercial, but the potential is huge. The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated that the North Slope of Alaska holds 590 trillion cubic feet of methane hydrate, potentially at least three times as much as the huge amount of conventional natural gas on the North Slope. The Department of Energy said there is the potential to eventually unlock massive reservoirs of methane hydrates that are believed to exist under the ocean floor in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Department of Energy conducted the small-scale test at Alaska's Prudhoe Bay between Feb. 15 and April 10 and released the results Wednesday, saying it had safely extracted a steady flow of natural gas.


Test well retrieves arctic methane
Methane hydrates are natural deposits of ice mixed with methane which can be found in ocean sediments and in arctic permafrost around the world. A test well on Alaska's North Slope has successfully collected the methane, considered a vast potential energy source.
Factors affecting accumulation
Hydrate formation is influenced by the porousness and permeability of enclosing materials
Deposits under permafrost (inland)
Ocean deposits
Layers of hydrates embedded in mud
Gas forms from organic decay
Deep cold, pressure turns sediments into methane hydrates bound in ice
Solid methane hydrate ice forms in lenses, bands close to surface
Methane seeps up from below
Sediment-covered sample
Hydrate sample burning
Area of test well
Arctic Ocean
Gas hydrates thought to be within this area
Barrow
Beaufort Sea
Chukchi Sea
Nuiqsut
Prudhoe Bay
National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska
Point Hope
Colville River
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
CANADA
ALASKA
60 miles
60 km
Trans-Alaska pipeline
Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Department of Energy, ConocoPhillips
Graphic: Robert Dorrell
© 2012 MCT

The department declared that "methane hydrates may exceed the energy content of all other fossil fuels combined; could ensure decades of affordable natural gas and cut America's foreign oil dependence." Harvesting methane hydrates remains in the research phase, though, and much more needs to be worked out before it's clear whether the process is economically feasible.

"It's great news, certainly a reminder for all those who make fun of federal research that it does have value. But that is a long-term effort, we need to keep that in mind," said Larry Persily, the federal coordinator for a proposed natural gas pipeline project aimed at bringing Alaska's conventional gas to market.

The Department of Energy conducted the test with help from ConocoPhillips and the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. The technology was developed in the lab by ConocoPhillips working with the University of Bergen in Norway.

"It's certainly exciting; it was a successful test," said ConocoPhillips spokeswoman Amy Burnett. "But we're still a long way off from getting commercial production."

Here's how the test worked: Researchers injected a mixture of carbon dioxide and nitrogen into the hydrate formation, which took in the carbon dioxide and released the methane. Researchers lowered well pressure to make the hydrate flow and get the gas out.

"We just completed the test, just plugged the well last week, but we've got 30 days of production data, which is considerably longer than any field test anyone in the world has ever done," said Christopher Smith, deputy assistant energy secretary for oil and natural gas. "We're headed back to the laboratory to analyze that, and we're excited about the early results."

Smith said the process has potential for storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as well as producing the natural gas.

The Department of Energy said the next step in its research effort will be testing gas hydrate production over longer periods, with the eventual goal of making a sustained harvest possible. It's offering $6.5 million in research grants and requesting $5 million from Congress for an additional testing effort.

The $5 million would be for more research on Alaska's North Slope with a longer test of producing the natural gas, Smith said.

$20 million available for clean diesel projects

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the availability of up to $20 million in fiscal year 2012 grant funding to establish clean diesel projects aimed at reducing harmful pollution from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines and improving air quality and Americans' health. In addition to these grants, approximately $9 million will be available through direct state allocations.

"These grants enable owners of older diesel vehicles to make investments that modernize their vehicles while making the air in their communities cleaner and healthier to breathe," said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation.

This is the first competition since the Diesel Emission Reduction Program was reauthorized in 2011. The program cleans up existing diesel vehicles, many of which can be operated for decades, by targeting projects that utilize the most cost-effective clean diesel strategies.

States, tribes, local governments, and non-profits are eligible to apply for these grants. Projects can reduce air pollution from older school buses, transit buses, heavy-duty diesel trucks, marine engines, locomotives, and other diesel engines. The closing date for receipt of proposals is June 4, 2012. ***(EPA)***

ON THE NET

Request for Proposals forms, related documents:
http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/prgnational.htm

CLARISSA V. DAVID

SOLAR ENERGY PROPONENTS
Upsolar chief executive officer Zhe Jiang, third left, is flanked by the rest of his team for a group photo after their presentation at the Chamolinian Room of Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. Jiang and the rest of the Upsolar team were on island over the weekend to present their solar energy program to government and business leaders, seeking local partners that would allow them to initially establish a 5-megawatt solar power plant in the CNMI. Founded by Jiang in 2006, Upsolar is an international company headquartered in Shanghai, China and specializes in photovoltaic or PV technology solutions.

DO YOUR PART

For Mother's Day and Mother Earth

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

The big day is approaching—do you have your Mother's Day gift? This week, I'm sharing some unique ways to Do Your Part and show the mothers in your life how much you care. And as a bonus, you'll be taking care of Mother Earth at the same time!

Flowers are usually a staple of Mother's Day. Before you spend big bucks on a beautiful bouquet that will end up in the trash, consider something a bit different. One of my all-time favorite Mother's Day gifts are the peonies now planted in my garden. They bloom right around Mother's Day and remind me of the day my two children gave them to me. They are beautiful, bloom each year, and smell amazing. You can go with a similar idea or find a local nursery and give a beautiful potted plant that will last through the year. Many supermarkets also sell potted plants from local nurseries.

Another smart idea is to give the gift of a service. This is something that definitely won't end up in the back of a dresser drawer. Consider items to make it easier on mom such as a gift certificate for a house cleaning service, a day at a beauty salon, or even a cooking class for two. Waste-free ideas show moms you care without giving something with a whole lot of packaging or that will eventually wind up in the trash or a landfill.

If jewelry is a must for your Mother's Day plans, your eco-friendly options are endless. You can find earrings made of colorful and recycled glass, necklaces intricately crafted from recycled silver, or my personal favorite—items from Beads For Life. These are beautiful pieces of jewelry that you would never guess are actually handcrafted from recycled magazine paper by women in Uganda. This incredible craft helps them support their families and rebuild their lives. You can visit DoYourPart.com/Columns for more recycled jewelry suggestions.

As for the Mother's Day cards, give a card that shows you care about the environment too. You could select one made with recycled paper or give a card that truly gives back. The Arbor Day Foundation offers electronic "Give a Tree" cards. For a small donation, an e-card will be sent to the Mom in your life and a tree will be planted in her name. You can also make a donation to The Blue Planet Network. An e-card will be sent along with details on how that donation will help people around the world get access to clean drinking water.

You can easily let your imagination run wild this Mother's Day as you come up with a thoughtful and meaningful gift. Just don't forget to keep Mother Earth in mind as you do! It's an important way to Do Your Part while showing how much you care this year.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

‘Where Wild Things Are’ author Maurice Sendak dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Maurice Sendak didn’t think of himself as a children’s author, but as an author who told the truth about childhood.

“I like interesting people and kids are really interesting people,” he explained to The Associated Press last fall. “And if you didn’t paint them in little blue, pink and yellow, it’s even more interesting.”

Sendak, who died early Tuesday in Danbury, Conn., at age 83, four days after suffering a stroke, revolutionized children’s books and how we think about childhood simply by leaving in what so many writers before had excluded. Dick and Jane were no match for his naughty Max. His kids misbehaved and didn’t regret it, and in their dreams and nightmares fled to the most unimaginable places. Monstrous creatures were devised from his studio, but none more frightening than the grownups in his stories or the cloud of the Holocaust that darkened his every page.

“From their earliest years children live on familiar terms with disrupting emotions—fear and anxiety are an intrinsic part of their everyday lives, they continually cope with frustrations as best they can,” he said upon receiving the Caldecott Medal in 1964 for “Where the Wild Things Are,” his signature book. “And it is through fantasy that children achieve catharsis. It is the best means they have for taming wild things.”

Rarely was a man so uninterested in being loved or adored. Starting with the Caldecott, the great parade marched on and on. He received the Hans Christian Andersen award in 1970 and a Laura Ingalls Wilder medal in 1983. President Bill Clinton awarded Sendak a National Medal of the Arts in 1996 and in 2009 President Obama read “Where the Wild Things Are” for the Easter Egg Roll.

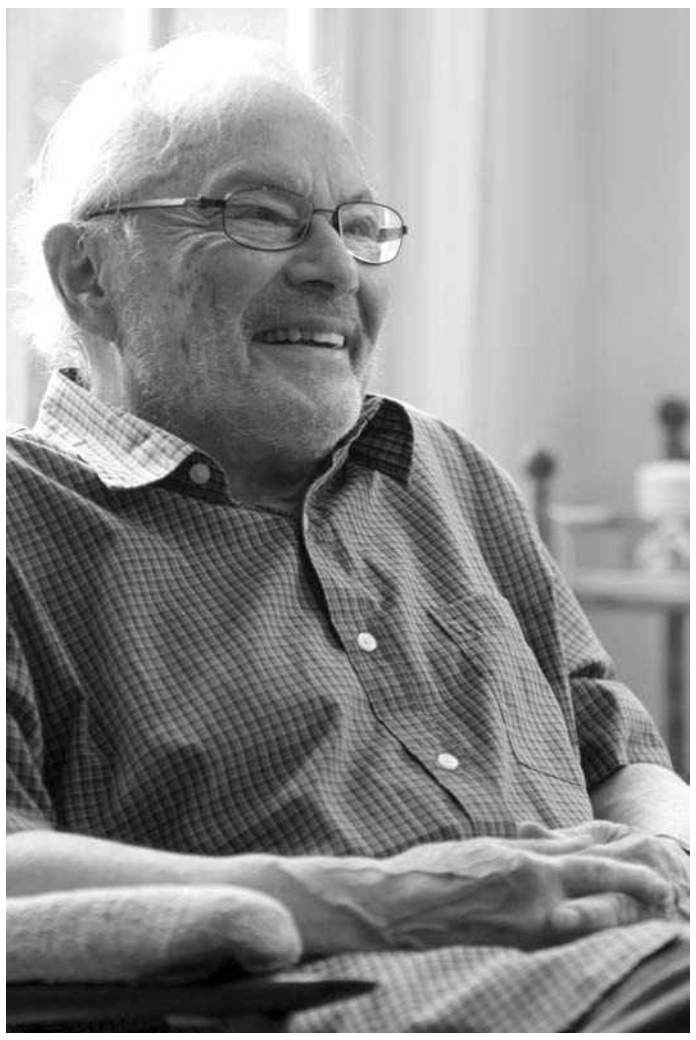
Communities attempted to ban him, but his books sold millions of copies and his curmudgeonly persona became as much a part of his legend as “Where the Wild Things Are,” adapted into a hit movie in 2009. He seemed to act out everyone’s fantasy of a nasty old man with a hidden and generous heart. No one granted the privilege could forget his snarly smile, his raspy, unprintable and adorable dismissals of such modern piffle as e-books and publicity tours, his misleading insistence that his life didn’t matter.

“I didn’t sleep with famous people or movie stars or anything like that. It’s a common story: Brooklyn boy grows up and succeeds in his profession, period,” he told the AP.

Sendak’s other books, standard volumes in so many children’s bedrooms, included “Chicken Soup With Rice,” “One was Johnny,” “Pierre,” “Outside Over There” and “Brundibar,” a folk tale about two children who need to earn enough money to buy milk for their sick mother.

“This is the closest thing to a perfect child I’ve ever had,” he told the AP.

Besides illustrating his own work, he also provided drawings—sometimes sweet, sometimes nasty—for Else Holmelund Minarik’s series “Little Bear,” George MacDonald’s



AP

In this Sept. 6 2011 file photo, children’s book author Maurice Sendak is photographed doing an interview at his home in Ridgefield, Conn.

“The Light Princess” and adaptations of E.T.A. Hoffman’s “The Nutcracker” and the Brothers Grimm’s “King Grisly-Beard.” His most recent book that he wrote and illustrated was “Bumble-Ardy,” a naughty pig party which came out in 2011, based on an old animated skit he worked up for “Sesame Street.”

In recent months, he had said he was working on a project about noses and he endorsed—against his best judgment—Stephen Colbert’s “I am a Pole (And So Can You!)”, a children’s story calculated to offend the master. Colbert’s book was published Tuesday.

“His art gave us a fantastical but unromanticized reminder of what childhood truly felt like,” Colbert said in a statement. “We are all honored to have been briefly invited into his world.”

Somebody up there has a sense of humor: As of Tuesday evening, “I Am a Pole” was No. 14 on Amazon.com’s best-seller list, outranking “Where the Wild Things Are” at No. 19.

Sendak also created costumes for ballets and staged operas, including the Czech opera “Brundibar,” which in 2003 he put on paper with his close friend, Pulitzer-winning playwright Tony Kushner. He designed sets for several productions at New York City Opera and he wrote the libretto for composer Oliver Knussen’s opera adaptation of “Where the Wild Things Are,” which premiered at Brussels’ Theatre de la Monnaie in 1980 as “Max et les Maximontres.” A revised final version debuted in 1984 in London.

He designed the Pacific Northwest Ballet’s “Nutcracker” production that later became a movie shown on television, and he served as producer of various animated TV series based on his illustrations, including “Seven Little Monsters,” “George and Martha” and “Little Bear.” He collaborated with Carole King on the musical “Really Rosie.”

None of Sendak’s books were memoirs, but all were personal, if only for their celebrations of disobedience and intimations of fear and death and dislocation, sketched in haunting, Blakean waves of pen and ink. “It’s a Jewish way of getting through life,” Kushner said last fall. “You acknowledge what is spectacular and beautiful and also you don’t close your eyes to the pain and the difficulty.”

“He drew children in a realistic way, as opposed to an idealized way,” children’s books historian Leonard S. Marcus said Tuesday. “His children weren’t perfect-looking. They didn’t resemble the people seen on advertising or in sitcoms. They looked more like immigrant children. It was a big change for American children’s books, which tended to take the melting pot approach and present children who were generic Americans.”

Revenge helped inspire “Where the Wild Things Are,” his canonical tale of the boy Max’s mind in flight in a forest of monsters, who just happen to look like some of Sendak’s relatives from childhood. “In The Night Kitchen,” released in 1971, was a forbidden dance of Laurel and Hardy in aprons and the flash of a boy’s genitals, leading to calls for the book to be removed from library shelves. “It was so fatuous, so incredible, that people would get so exercised by a phallus, a normal appendage to a man and to a boy. It was so cheap and vulgar. Despicable,” Sendak said last fall. “It’s all changed now. We live in a different country altogether. I will not say an improved version. No.”

His stories were less about the kids he knew—never had them, he was happy to say—than the kid he used to be. The son of Polish immigrants, he was born in 1928 in a Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn. The family didn’t have a lot of money and he didn’t have a lot of friends besides his brother and sister. He was an outsider at birth, as Christians nearby would remind him, throwing dirt and rocks as

See SENDAK on Next Page

Recalling Sendak’s ‘dark and clear-eyed view’

NEW YORK (AP)—Maurice Sendak’s closest friends gathered in his hospital room—playwright Tony Kushner, authors Brian Selznick and Gregory Maguire. Kushner brought jellybeans, while Maguire placed a picture of Lewis Carroll on the table beside Sendak’s bed.

“The one thing he wasn’t uncertain about was his significance,” Maguire said Tuesday, hours after Sendak died at age 83. A scowling monument of 20th century children’s literature, Sendak had suffered a stroke late last week and spent his remaining days hospitalized in Danbury, Conn.

“He always identified with his heroes from the past and felt like they spoke to him and encouraged him to do brilliant work. So I thought I would give Maurice a glimpse of the people waiting for him on the other side.”

Sendak, among the most honored and adored children’s authors, ranks with Dr. Seuss as a revolutionary force of the past half-century. He told stories about children that were actually about children, and not what adults wished them to be. He inspired every author, from Judy Blume to Daniel Handler, who ever wanted to go a little too far.

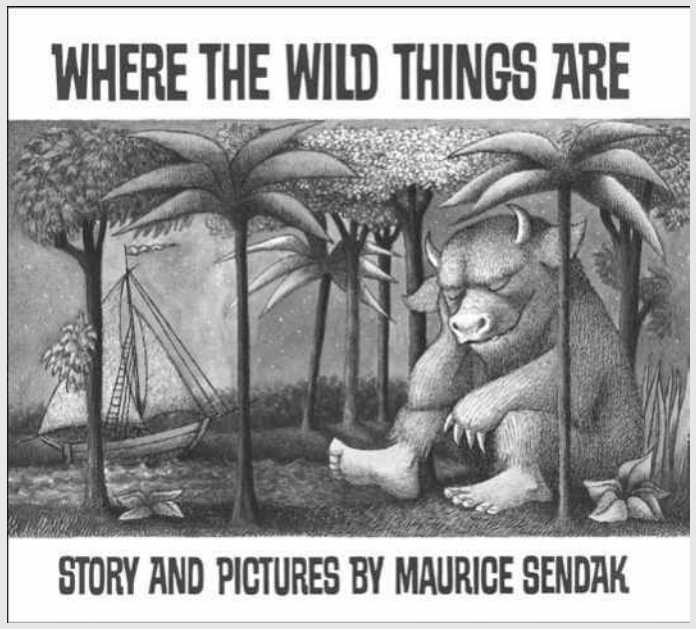
“It’s almost impossible to overstate his importance,” says Handler, known for the Lemony Snicket “Series Of Unfortunate Events” books. “He’s a North Star in the firmament of anyone who makes children’s books, in particular for his dark and clear-eyed view of the world that was kindred to me when I was in kindergarten and kindred to me now. He gives neither the comfort nor the horror of sentimentality.”

“He got right inside what a child was thinking and feeling,” said Blume, a close friend of Sendak’s who cried as she spoke of him. “I always loved hearing him say that you didn’t have to have a child to write children’s books. What you have to have is a memory of your own childhood.”

Censors complained (although not as often as Sendak alleged), but millions of families have made a place—or even a whole shelf—in their homes for “Where the Wild Things Are,” “In the Night Kitchen” and other works. To have childhood memories of reading often means to have a story to tell about Sendak.

Maguire, 57, said his family couldn’t afford many books, but he recalled his father buying “The Nutshell Library,” four pocket-sized hardcovers that included “Pierre” and “Chicken Soup With Rice.”

“We read them to shreds, until they were just bits of tissue paper lying around the room because we couldn’t get enough of them,” says Maguire, author of four “Wicked” novels and of



AP

This image provided by HarperCollins shows the book cover of “Where the Wild Things Are,” by Maurice Sendak.

“Making Mischief: A Maurice Sendak Appreciation.”

Chris Raschka, a two-time recipient of the Caldecott Medal for best illustration in a children’s book, remembers reading “Where the Wild Things Are,” winner of the Caldecott in 1964. Raschka, 53, was sitting on the kitchen table at his best friend’s house and picked up a copy lying nearby. He felt as if he were “peeking into an illicit world.”

“What set it apart was that it seemed like the first picture book that was very personal, and it was painted by an artist who combined the child and the adult in a new way,” says Raschka, who works with Sendak’s longtime editor, Michael di Capua.

“Maurice Sendak is really the illustrator’s illustrator. He’s a stronger presence than anyone else, certainly than any living illustrator. He just represented a very personal, fine art approach to making books that is an inspiration to all of us.”

Sandra Boynton, the award-winning illustrator, author and songwriter, regarded Sendak as a teacher for much of her life. As a little girl, she was so taken by his illustrations of “The Little Bear” series, that she promised herself she would learn the words, too, and so credits Sendak with helping her learn to read. In the 1970s, she was among the very lucky at Yale University able to take a class Sendak was offering on children’s books.

See RECALLING on Next Page

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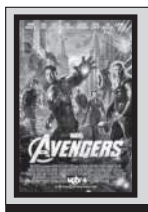

Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Marvel Studios delivers the ultimate comic-book production, tying such characters as Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) together for a big-screen franchise team-up like no other. Show runner Joss Whedon (Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Firefly) adapts and helms the script by Zak Penn, with a supporting cast that includes Samuel L. Jackson and Jeremy Renner.

Pirates! Band of Misfits

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Hugh Grant, Brendan Gleeson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Set sail for fun with this family-friendly Aardman Animations adventure following a bumbling, abundantly bearded scallywag who competes against his two biggest rivals for the title Pirate of the Year. Try as he might, the Pirate Captain (Hugh Grant) just can't be taken seriously as a plunderer. But that might change if he could only manage to win the Pirate of the Year competition. As the event gets under way, the Pirate Captain makes it his mission to leave dreaded foes Black Bellamy (Jeremy Piven) and Cutlass Liz (Salma Hayek) sinking in his wake.

★ ★ ★

Safe

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

The Five Year Engagement

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Jason Segel, Emily Blunt
Comedy • Rated R

The Lucky One

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Drama • Rated PG 13

Three Stooges

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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Coroner: Valium, alcohol killed painter Kinkade

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Artist Thomas Kinkade died from an accidental overdose of alcohol and prescription tranquilizers, but his heart had grown so enlarged he had been vulnerable to a fatal heart attack at any point, according to a detailed autopsy report released Tuesday.

The self-described "Painter of Light" died on April 6 of an acute combination of ethanol and Diazepam intoxication, or in common terms, of alcohol and the tranquilizer marketed as Valium, the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office said.

The 54-year-old Kinkade's sentimental scenes of country gardens and pastoral landscapes led to a commercial empire of franchised galleries, reproduced artwork and spin-off products that was said to fetch some $100 million a year in sales.

In recent years, however, he had run into personal difficulties, including a 2010 bankruptcy filing by one of his companies and an arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence that same year outside Carmel.

Kinkade

Kinkade's companion found him in the bed they shared at his Monte Sereno home, four hours after he was last known to be alive, said Joseph O'Hara, Santa Clara County's lead medical examiner. Some of his fingernails still held a residue of green paint, and his toenails were polished a glittery gold, the autopsy report said.

O'Hara described the 6-foot, 254-pound Kinkade as mildly obese and noted that he suffered from systemic hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

"His heart was so big that at any time he was vulnerable," O'Hara said. "Apparently he had given up drinking and maybe he had just started again. His levels were definitely in the toxic range."

Several other drugs, including two other prescription tranquilizers, were present in his bloodstream. Kinkade's urine contained gamma-hydroxybutyric acid, or GHB, which occurs naturally in the human body but can also be used as the so-called date rape drug.

O'Hara said the painter also had suffered several remote blunt force injuries.

"He had a bruise of his abdomen that was healing, a bruise under his scalp, a hemorrhage under his head, as well as multiple healed rib fractures," O'Hara said. "He took a tumble at some point."

O'Hara said he could not release further details about the circumstances in which Kinkade was found or the activities leading to his death, given the pending investigation.

His brother Patrick Kinkade did not immediately return a call seeking comment Tuesday but has said the painter battled alcoholism and had relapsed before his death.

Kinkade's commercial successes did not endear him with the art establishment, who criticized him for appearing to appeal to the widest possible audience, his brother told The San Jose Mercury News.

The attacks on his work and the artist's split with his wife two years ago took a toll, and he turned to alcohol over the past four or five years, Patrick Kinkade said.

"As much as he said it didn't bother him, in his heart deep down inside it would sadden him that people would criticize, so hatefully, his work and his vision, when people didn't understand him," said Patrick Kinkade, an associate professor of criminal justice at Texas Christian University.

30-minute defense in Hudson family murder trial

CHICAGO (AP)—The man accused of killing three of Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson's relatives did not testify and his attorneys put on a mere 30-minute defense Tuesday, calling just two detectives in a bid to suggest they botched the 2008 investigation.

The brief defense followed a two-week presentation by prosecutors, who called 83 witnesses, including Hudson herself, as they sought to prove William Balfour shot the star's mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew in a fit of jealous rage. Balfour, 30, is Hudson's former brother-in-law.

Hudson was in court Tuesday as she was every day for testimony. Wearing a beige blouse, pants and high heels, she looked more relaxed than usual—smiling once as a prosecutor cross-examined one witness. Hudson was the first witness called, testifying about the last time she saw her family.

Prosecutors wrapped up their case earlier Tuesday after showing pictures of Hudson's nephew, Julian King, whom the actress and singer testified she endearingly called, Tugga Bear. He was found in an SUV, shot in the head, covered by a shower curtain and surrounded by shell casings, officers testified.

Hudson

The detectives called by the defense had testified earlier for prosecutors. Defense attorney Cynthia Brown pressed Gregory Jacobson about a 2008 report where he wrote a witness saw the SUV in which King's body was found about 6 p.m. a day after the murders. He told prosecutors the witness saw it about 6 a.m. The officer said he made a mistake in the original report.

The other detective, Thomas Kelly, conceded he hadn't listed keys found on Balfour in a report weeks after the killings. Another item not mentioned was Balfour's unused transit card, evidence that prosecutors say discredited Balfour's alibi that he had taken a subway train the day of the murders.

"It's not an all-encompassing report," Kelly told jurors.

The defense may use the admission about the keys and apparent confusion over the time the SUV was spotted in closing arguments to bolster its claim that police rushed to pin the murders on Balfour because of intense media coverage spurred by Hudson's stardom.

Judge Charles Burns said closing arguments would begin Wednesday morning, after which jurors will begin deliberating.

Balfour has pleaded not guilty to three counts of first-degree murder. If convicted on all counts, he faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

Before the defense called its first witness, Burns asked whether Balfour planned to testify, and attorney Amy Thompson told the judge he "determined he does not wish to testify."

Judges typically instruct juries not to hold it against defendants if they choose not to testify, and Burns will likely do that before jurors start their deliberations Wednesday.

Balfour and Julia Hudson were estranged but not yet divorced when the shootings occurred, and prosecution witnesses testified he threatened to kill the Hudson family dozens of times if Julia Hudson refused to reconcile with him.

Prosecutors say Balfour used a .45-caliber handgun to shoot Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, 57, in the living room of the Hudson family home on Oct. 24, 2008; he then allegedly shot Hudson's 29-year-old brother in the head as he lay in bed and drove off in Jason Hudson's SUV with King.

Balfour allegedly shot the boy several times in the head as he lay behind a front seat. His body was found in the abandoned vehicle miles (kilometers) away after a frantic, three-day search.

SENDAK

From Page 19

he left Hebrew school. The kidnapping and murder of Charles Lindbergh's baby son terrified him for years.

He remembered no special talent—his brother, Jack, was the chosen one. But he absorbed his father's stories and he loved to dream and to create, like the time he and his brother built a model of the 1939 World's Fair out of clay and wax. At the movies, he surrendered to the magic of "Fantasia," and later escaped into "Pinocchio," a guilty pleasure during darkened times. The Nazi cancer was spreading overseas and the U.S. entered the war. Sendak's brother joined the military, relatives overseas were captured and killed. Storytelling, after the Holocaust, became something more than play.

"It forced me to take children to a level that I thought was more honest than most people did," he said. "Because if life is so critical, if Anne Frank could die, if my friend could die, children were as vulnerable as adults, and that gave me a secret purpose to my work, to make them live. Because I wanted to live. I wanted to grow up."

Sendak didn't go to college and worked a variety of odd jobs until he was hired by the famous toy store FAO Schwarz as a window dresser in 1948. But illustration was his dream and his break came in 1951 when he was commissioned to do the art for "Wonderful Farm" by Marcel Ayme. By 1957 he was writing his own books.

"He began to be honest in the `50s," said "Wicked" author Gregory Maguire, one of Sendak's closest friends. "He was laceratingly honest at a time when few others were."

RECALLING

From Page 19

"He talked a lot about voice, about finding your voice, and, of course, he was very visually oriented as well," says Boynton, 59, whose many books include "Philadelphia Chickens" and "Amazing Cows." "The thing that struck me the most of what he said was that the words should never be redundant to the picture. They both have a place."

Handler, 42, says Sendak has been so much a part of his life he can't think of a time he wasn't aware of him. Sendak's books were all over his room and in his home today. To even attempt praise of "Where the Wild Things Are" is like saying "Hamlet" is a good play, he notes. Sendak's genius is how he weaves together the real and the magical without telling you which is which.

"'Where the Wild Things Are' starts with a boy being sent to his room and proceeds to take him to an enormous and irrational world without really telling us if it's real. But if you're a small child it does seem real and that's what matters," Handler says.

"Both my son and my wife cried this morning at the news of his death. That might sum up his career in a nutshell."

'The Voice' crowns second-season champion

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jermaine Paul was front and center on "The Voice."

The 33-year-old background singer from Harriman, N.Y., was declared the winner of the NBC singing competition Tuesday.

Paul, who was coached by country singer and "Voice" mentor Blake Shelton, was awarded the show's grand prize of $100,000 and a record deal with Universal after crooning R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" for his final solo performance Monday.

"I just want to say thank you to everybody that supported me from day one," said Paul through tears.

Juliet Simms, the 26-year-old indie rocker from San Francisco who was coached by Cee Lo Green, came in second place. She was followed by Tony Lucca, the 36-year-old former Mouseketeer from Detroit, who was guided by Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine. Chris Mann, the 30-year-old classical singer from Wichita, Kan., who was shepherded by pop diva Christina Aguilera, rounded out the final four.

Javier Colon won the first season of "The Voice" last year.

Bronzed NJ mom inspires 'tanorexic' action figure

OXFORD, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut novelty company is selling a "tanorexic" action figure based on a deeply tanned New Jersey mother accused of causing skin burns to her young daughter in a tanning booth.

Patricia Krentcil has said she loves tanning but wouldn't—and didn't—take her then-5-year-old into a tanning booth. Krentcil pleaded not guilty last week to a child endangerment charge. She says her daughter got sunburned outdoors.

The president of Oxford-based HeroBuilders says everyone has friends into heavy tanning. Emil Vicale says, "We thought it was a funny thing to do."

The blonde, orange-faced doll in a black pantsuit costs $29.95.

A phone number for Krentcil in Nutley rang unanswered Tuesday night. Her attorney didn't return an after-hours message.

This undated photo provided by HeroBuilders shows the novelty company's new "tanorexic" action figure based on Patricia Krentcil, the deeply tanned New Jersey mother accused of causing skin burns to her young daughter in a tanning booth. AP

Vince Gill feels free as an independent artist

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Vince Gill can do whatever he wants.

For the first time in nearly 30 years, the Country Music Hall of Fame member doesn't have a record deal. He got signed by a label in 1983 and had been on the MCA Records roster since 1989.

"My contract ran out. I'd been there for 23 years, and I very well may run right back there and take my next record to them," he said in an interview at rehearsals for Keith Urban's "We're All For The Hall" event last month. "There was no disappointment. ...It got put out there that I'd `left the label,' and it just was not true."

His tenth and final album for the label was last year's "Guitar Slinger," recorded in his state-of-the-art home studio. It contained the Grammy-nominated song "Threaten Me With Heaven," but the single didn't even break the top 40 on the country chart. Despite the lack of radio airplay, the 55-year-old Gill is optimistic about the future.

"I'm inspired by the freedom to do as much as I want," he said. "I've watched Willie Nelson probably record more music in the last 10 or 20 years than he did in the first 30. That's my goal, is to make 10 times the music that I've made to this point. I'm beyond still inspired to be creative, and I see time running out in a sense. At some point it will be hard to draw breath and sing a high note like I can now. I want to continue to do what I've done, but in much larger doses."

Gill is hitting the road in June for a dozen bluegrass shows. It kicks off June 13 in Richmond, Va. Gill has sold more than 26 million albums and is a 20-time Grammy winner. He is known for dozens of country hits including, "One More Last Chance," "Whenever You Come Around" and "Go Rest High On That Mountain."

2 celebs are booted from 'Dancing with the Stars'

NEW YORK (AP)—It was two dancers down in a double elimination on TV's "Dancing With the Stars."

Disney Channel star Roshon Fegan and actress Melissa Gilbert were bounced Tuesday as the hit ABC celebrity dance competition wrapped up its eighth week of competition.

Gilbert was hearing her fate the day she turned 48 years old. But she insisted that getting this far in the contest made it an incredible birthday.

Fegan and Gilbert join previously ousted contestants Jaleel White, Gavin DeGraw, Gladys Knight, Sherri Shepherd, Jack Wagner and Martina Navratilova.

Singer Katherine Jenkins had begun the night in jeopardy after Monday's trio dance, but was spared. She'll be back next week for the semi-finals to compete with actor William Levy, TV personality Maria Menounos and football star Donald Driver.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rita Ora: 'R.I.P' to rumors she's dating Drake

LONDON (AP)—Jay-Z's protege Rita Ora says she's not dating Drake, they're just good friends. She did, however, fall in love with a track he wrote, "R.I.P." It's Ora's debut single in the U.K., where it's No. 1 on iTunes. The Kosovo-born singer had a party in London on Tuesday to celebrate. Ora says she loved the track the moment she heard it, but she's only pals with Drake. Ora says: "We're really good friends actually ... He has my back so it's really nice to know I have a guy that's a good friend like that." The 21-year-old is signed to Jay-Z's Roc Nation and is now on the radar of the paparazzi, who hung around outside the party. Ora says, "I'm like, oh my God, they care!"

Artist Ai Weiwei says court allows his tax lawsuit

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei says a court in Beijing has accepted a lawsuit his design firm has filed against a tax office for levying a $2.4 million bill on his company. Ai said Wednesday the court accepted a lawsuit filed by his company, Beijing Fake Cultural Development Ltd., against the No. 2 Inspection Squad of the Beijing tax bureau. Ai says the tax office violated laws in handling witnesses, evidence and company accounts in his case. He says the court will announce a hearing date later but it must take place within three months. Ai was detained for three months last year during an overall crackdown on dissent. Following his release, authorities demanded his design company pay $2.4 million in back taxes and fines.

Rapper G. Dep gets 15 to life in 1993 NY shooting

NEW YORK (AP)—When rapper G. Dep turned himself in nearly two decades after a shooting, he told police he wanted to clear his conscience. He found out Tuesday what the consequences would be: 15 years to life in prison, the minimum term for his murder conviction. A judge, prosecutors and the jury foreman said he deserved credit for coming forward when he'd never been suspected in the long-cold case. "It may not be the best legal strategy, but, certainly, it was the right thing to do," Manhattan state Supreme Court Justice Michael Obus said. With that, the 37-year-old rapper—who had a brush with fame in the late 1990s and early 2000s—walked slowly out of the courtroom, looking back at family and friends. He didn't speak at his sentencing, but his lawyer, Anthony L. Ricco, said G. Dep was at peace with his decision. "He was in search of his redemption and his honor, and some might say that he achieved that," Ricco said after court.

Utah trial over actor Gary Coleman's estate ends

PROVO, Utah (AP)—It's now up to a Utah judge to decide whether Gary Coleman's ex-wife or an ex-girlfriend is entitled to the late child TV star's estate. Judge James Taylor heard closing arguments Tuesday in Provo but didn't specify when he'll issue a ruling. The "Diff'rent Strokes" actor died of a brain hemorrhage in 2010. Shannon Price testified Monday that even though she and Coleman divorced in 2008, they continued to live together and present themselves in public as husband and wife. Another woman, Anna Gray, says Coleman named her a beneficiary and executor of his estate in 2005. Gray managed Coleman's affairs for a number of years and was his ex-girlfriend. It's not clear how much Coleman's estate is worth, but court papers mention a $324,000 house and a pension, among other possible assets. Coleman's ashes and the intellectual rights to some of his work also are at stake.

Son deserves dressing-down for opening bedroom drawers

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband's son—I'll call him Duncan—came to visit with his family. He lived with us for about six months on and off when he was younger. During that time, he twice went through my dresser drawers without my permission. The first time, we discovered a photo of me in a negligee he had found and hidden. The second time, he said he had been looking for a key. I was furious and felt violated.

During his recent visit, it happened a third time. I discovered my underwear drawer was slightly ajar and knew Duncan had used the bathroom in our bedroom. When I told my husband, he asked me not to let it ruin the rest of their visit. I felt violated again!

After Duncan and his family left, I asked my husband if this upset him, too, and his reply was that he was upset that I let it bother me. I understand that Duncan is his only son, but I'm hurt that he's taking Duncan's side. Help!

NERVOUS IN NEVADA

DEAR NERVOUS: It does appear that Duncan has an unhealthy fixation on your underwear drawer, or he may be a cross-dresser. Because your husband refuses to discuss this with his son, the next time Duncan announces that he's coming for a visit, offer to buy him lingerie in his size, or install a sturdy lock on your bedroom door.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been having an affair with "Ginger" for several years. She's married and has three kids. Ginger told me she and her husband had stopped being intimate just before we started our relationship.

Her husband caught on about a year ago. By this time Ginger and I had developed deep feelings for each other, but we agreed to stop because he had given her an ultimatum -- either break it off or get out. We stopped seeing each other for a few weeks, then she called saying she had been pregnant but had gotten an abortion, and we started up again.

This time we had to carefully plan our limited time together. We continued our relationship for another eight months before it finally ended. What I'm having a problem with is Ginger ended it with no phone call—nothing. I haven't heard from her in more than a month, and she won't return my calls or texts. Don't you think I deserved a better goodbye?

SITTING BY THE PHONE IN OHIO

DEAR SITTING BY THE PHONE: Not really. While closure might have made this less frustrating for you, Ginger tried to say goodbye to you before and it didn't work. What probably happened is her husband found out the affair was ongoing and is monitoring her closely. You'll feel better once you accept that Ginger has chosen him and the kids and moved on.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I like to entertain in our home, and sometimes we offer self-service mixed nuts. What do you think of a guest who hovers over the bowl and picks out all the pecans and macadamias, leaving behind the peanuts and the almonds? Is she being rude?

TOM R. IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR TOM R.: Sure it's rude. It's also greedy and inconsiderate of the other guests who also may be partial to pecans and macadamias. However, because you know that this person has a weakness for two particular kinds of nuts, why not offer her a small bowl of her own containing only the nuts of her choice? When you do, smile and say "... nuts to you."

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

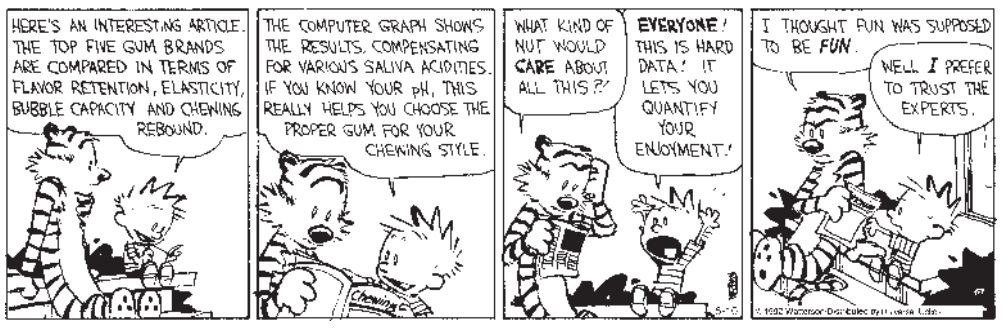
■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

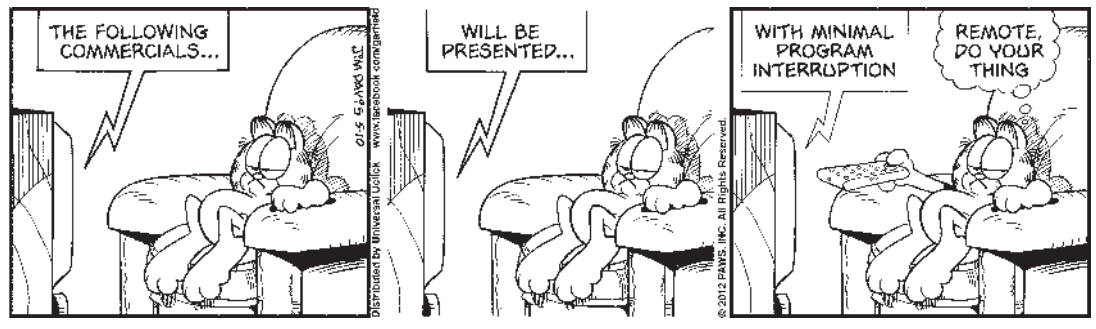
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE'S AN INTERESTING ARTICLE. THE TOP FIVE GUM BRANDS ARE COMPARED IN TERMS OF FLAVOR RETENTION, ELASTICITY, BUBBLE CAPACITY AND CHEWING REBOUND.
THE COMPUTER GRAPH SHOWS THE RESULTS, COMPENSATING FOR VARIOUS SALIVA ACIDITIES. IF YOU KNOW YOUR pH, THIS REALLY HELPS YOU CHOOSE THE PROPER GUM FOR YOUR CHEWING STYLE.
Chewing
WHAT KIND OF NUT WOULD CARE ABOUT ALL THIS?!
EVERYONE! THIS IS HARD DATA! IT LETS YOU QUANTIFY YOUR ENJOYMENT!
I THOUGHT FUN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FUN.
WELL I PREFER TO TRUST THE EXPERTS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis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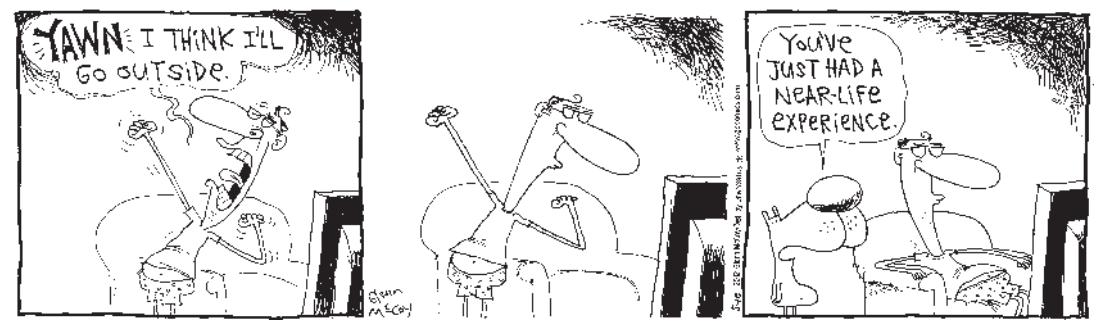
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM, WHAT'S WITH THIS BAND?
KATY AND I ARE MODERN-DAY TROUBADOURS.
WHY CAN'T CLAYTON JOIN?
HE WAS BEING VERY BOSSY AND WOULDN'T COLLABORATE.
ADAM, HE'S EIGHT AND HIS FEELINGS ARE HURT. LET HIM BACK IN THE BAND.
OH... OKAY.
BUT FOR THE RECORD, I'M GOING TO CALL YOU "REVERSE YOKO" FROM NOW ON.
MARRELL 5/10

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

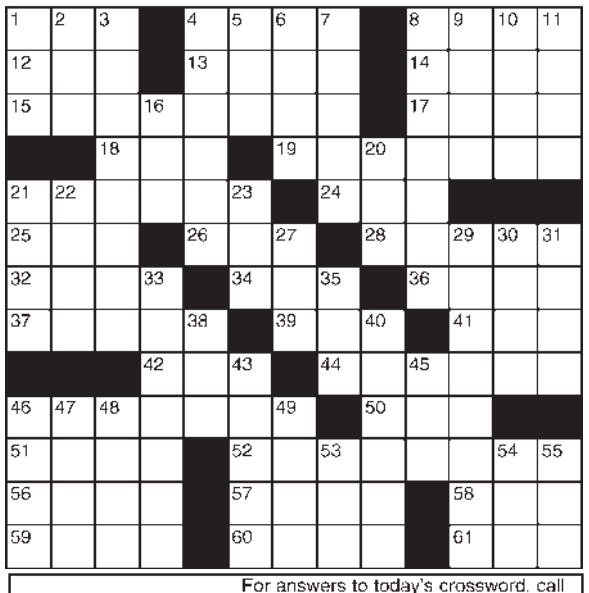
ACROSS
1 Standard
4 Plate
8 Dog's annoyance
12 Id counterpart
13 Garfield's pal
14 Wander
15 Attendance check
17 Gaelic
18 Allow
19 Tissue brand
21 Jinx
24 Sphere
25 Pt. of speech
26 Knock
28 Staffers
32 "Piggies"
34 Afternoon affair
36 Pennsylvania port
37 Glitch
39 Do sums
41 Coffee shop vessel
42 Bagel topper
44 Went in a hurry
46 "Bloodied but —"
50 Auto
51 Rani's garment
52 Wad of cash
56 Heroic verse
57 Actress Falco
58 Writer Buscaglia
59 Leftovers
60 P.D. rank
61 Journey segment

DOWN
1 Apiece
2 Past
3 Reinvest savings
4 Medic
5 Mrs. McKinley
6 Lustrous fabric
7 Conversation piece?
8 Sample
9 Forsaken
10 Relaxation
11 Visa alternative, for short
16 Started
20 Historic period
21 Loathe
22 Smell
23 Feedbag tidbit
27 Shell game item
29 Lead-in to "Ta-da!"
30 Hibernia
31 Transmit
33 Helpless one?
35 Woodshaping tool
38 Tier
40 List of court cases
43 Mediterranean sailing ship
45 Rowing need
46 — -friendly
47 Scruff
48 Family business abbr.
49 Arp's style
53 Pinch
54 Shelter
55 Journal

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	B	B		T	H	A	W		B	R	I	M
M	A	O		A	I	L	E		E	U	R	O
U	S	E		I	S	L	E	O	F	M	A	N
S	H	R	U	B			D	U	O			
			Z	U	L	U		T	R	Y	S	T
M	A	N	I	T	O	B	A		C	A	C	H
O	N	O		E	C	O	L	I		W	A	R
S	K	I	T		K	A	T	M	A	N	D	U
T	H	R	O	B		T	A	P	S			
			P	R	O			I	S	S	U	E
M	A	N	H	A	T	T	A	N		E	N	D
P	L	E	A		T	A	N	G		A	D	D
G	I	S	T		O	B	I	E		T	O	Y

Yesterday's answer 5-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kenan Thompson, 34; Jason Brooks, 46; Bono, 52; Donovan, 66.

Happy Birthday: Look, assess and proceed. You have the necessary attributes to reach your goals, but you have to be willing to step up to the plate and take charge. Trust in your abilities, expand your knowledge and emphasize that you have what it takes to be a leader. Don't look back or waste time on trivial matters. Your numbers are 8, 13, 23, 26, 34, 38, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't labor over personal matters you cannot change. Concentrate on work and you will advance. Putting in long hours and paying attention to detail will put you ahead of the competition. A professional look will add to your marketability. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll dazzle everyone with your astute way of explaining and presenting what you have to offer. Networking will help you seal a deal or obtain information you need to move forward with something or someone you want to pursue. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do a little soul-searching and make a list of the things you must do to make your life better. Start with your home, family and obligations, and you will discover a way to ease your stress and improve your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do something out of the ordinary. A change of scenery or trying a new activity will motivate you to expand your circle of friends and make a positive move toward a better future. Life is what you make it. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be careful not to get in someone's way. You have to protect your reputation and avoid getting involved in gossip. Work hard to complete any job or responsibility you've been given. Show strength, courage, accountability and integrity. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You are in a much better position than anticipated. Don't hold back, waiting to see what everyone else does. Be a leader, stand up and speak to your peers. You can make a difference. Opportunities will develop if you take charge. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Money matters may be of concern if you have taken on too much debt. Set up a budget you can live with, or sell off assets to ease your stress. Sizing down will enable you to establish a better opportunity to move forward. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Communication will result in a chance to partner with someone. Whether it is a personal or professional relationship you seek, you will connect with people who can contribute something worthwhile. Equality should be your goal. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Haste makes waste. Slow down and leave nothing to chance. Relax and let things fall into place naturally. Force will backfire and leave you feeling defeated. Put time and effort into important relationships, not an impossible deadline. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do something that will improve your living conditions. An investment will pay off, and a chance to show off in front of friends or relatives will boost your reputation and put you in a good position when it comes to personal decisions. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do whatever it takes to stabilize your financial, emotional and personal life. It's important not to promise what you can't deliver. Stick to the truth and open your heart to someone who has been there for you through thick and thin. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Consider past experiences when making a personal decision. You have to make the right choice if you expect to find happiness in the future. You cannot base your next move on what others want when it's what you need that counts. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are precise, cautious and calculating. You size up and seize opportunities.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7				2
	9	7			6	1		
	2				9		4	
			8			3	2	
5								6
	6	4			1			
	7		2				9	
		2	9			7	8	
9				3				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	5	6	7	4	9	1	2
6	2	7	5	9	1	4	3	8
4	9	1	8	3	2	6	5	7
3	7	2	4	1	8	5	6	9
1	8	6	9	2	5	7	4	3
9	5	4	7	6	3	2	8	1
2	4	8	1	5	9	3	7	6
7	1	9	3	4	6	8	2	5
5	6	3	2	8	7	1	9	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JOYS OF LIFE **Solution: 6 letters**

S	S	E	F	E	D	R	I	O	M	E	M	T	E	R
P	U	X	R	A	F	L	B	E	V	E	N	G	L	E
E	R	P	I	E	M	I	R	I	V	E	C	R	K	N
C	P	E	E	M	L	I	L	O	L	E	O	O	R	N
T	R	C	N	R	P	A	L	A	W	L	N	W	A	U
A	I	T	D	E	N	U	T	I	A	U	D	T	P	T
C	S	A	S	A	Y	A	L	I	E	O	U	H	S	S
L	E	T	L	L	T	E	T	S	O	S	C	L	T	S
E	S	I	E	I	I	M	S	U	E	N	T	A	O	E
H	S	O	V	Z	L	I	W	B	R	E	S	E	R	N
T	E	N	R	A	A	T	E	I	A	A	F	H	Y	I
A	N	E	A	T	E	R	N	R	O	B	L	T	Ⓘ	P
E	C	S	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	S	A	R	Ⓓ	P
R	E	D	N	O	W	E	N	J	O	Y	S	I	Ⓔ	A
B	O	D	Y	N	T	H	R	I	L	L	H	B	Ⓐ	H

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Alive, Birth, Body, Born, Breath, Conduct, Enjoy, Essence, Events, Expectation, Families, Flash, Friends, Growth, Happiness, Heal, Heart, Idea, Impulse, Life, Love, Marvel, Memoir, Miracles, News, Reality, Realization, Relationship, Soul, Sparkle, Spectacle, Story, Stunner, Supernatural, Surprise, Talent, Tear, Thrill, Time, Wonder, World

Yesterday's Answer: Faithful

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Saipan Tribune

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD W. BURCHER, Jr., Petitioner,	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0443**
vs.	
DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER, Respondent.	

ORDER FOR RESPONDENT DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

TO: DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER

Pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301,YOU are hereby ORDERED to make a personal appearance before the Court or else to file any written response you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within twenty (20) days after publication of this Order in one of the two major daily newspapers in the Commonwealth. You are further directed to deliver or mail a copy of any responsive pleading that you file to Petitioner's attorney, Thomas E. Clifford, whose address is:

2nd Floor, Alexander Building,
San Jose
P.O. Box 506514
Saipan, MP 96950

as soon as practicable after filing. Any responsive pleading should be filed with Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. If you fail either to make a personal appearance or to file a written response in accordance with this Order, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

So ORDERED this 23rd day of January, 2012.

/s/ The Honorable PERRY B. INOS
Associate Judge

Name: Janet Taitano-Arroyo
Address: P.O. Box 502404
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 670-989-5267

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of:	) FCD CN) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 12-0216)
Janet Taitano-Arroyo Petitioner	) **NOTICE OF HEARING**)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 7, 2012 at 9:30a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos

Dated this 7th day of May, 2012.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Nuggets avoid elimination, hold off Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Andre Miller scored 24 points, including two free throws with 12.8 seconds left, and the Denver Nuggets survived Kobe Bryant's late scoring barrage in a 43-point performance, avoiding playoff elimination with a 102-99 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 5 on Tuesday night.

JaVale McGee had 21 points and 14 rebounds for the sixth-seeded Nuggets, who trimmed the Lakers' series lead to 3-2, but only after a hair-raising finish.

Denver had a 15-point lead midway through the fourth quarter against the lifeless Lakers, but Bryant engineered a stunning comeback before his final three shots missed. Bryant scored 12 points in the final 4:47, hitting four 3-pointers that trimmed the Nuggets' lead to 98-96 with 59 seconds left.

"Kobe was incredible," Denver coach George Karl said. "He scares the hell out of me every time we go up against him."

Bryant then missed a potential tying 5-footer and a 3-pointer, but Denver missed two free throws before Ramon Sessions hit a 3-pointer with 12.8 seconds left, trimming the Nuggets' lead to one point.

Los Angeles had two more chances to tie after the veteran Miller's free throws, but Bryant and Sessions missed 3-pointers near the buzzer.

Game 6 is Thursday night in Denver.

Arron Afflalo scored a career playoff-high 19 points and Danilo Gallinari added 14 for the Nuggets, while rookie Kenneth Faried had 10 points and nine rebounds. Miller scored 10 points in the fourth quarter and 17 in the second half, calmly leading his young teammates to the win.

Andrew Bynum had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who lost a closeout playoff game at home for the first time since May 4, 2006, against Phoenix. Until Bryant's big finish, Los Angeles mustered little passion for the occasion, playing the second half under steady boos from their fans.

Bynum indirectly tweaked the Nuggets on Monday when he proclaimed elimination games are "actually kind of easy" because an opponent will sometimes give up quickly when facing adversity. Karl mentioned the quote to his Nuggets, and they played like a team that isn't going anywhere.

"I've been blessed to win a few series, and the hardest thing to win is that fourth game," Karl said. "His feeling on closeouts is a little different than mine."

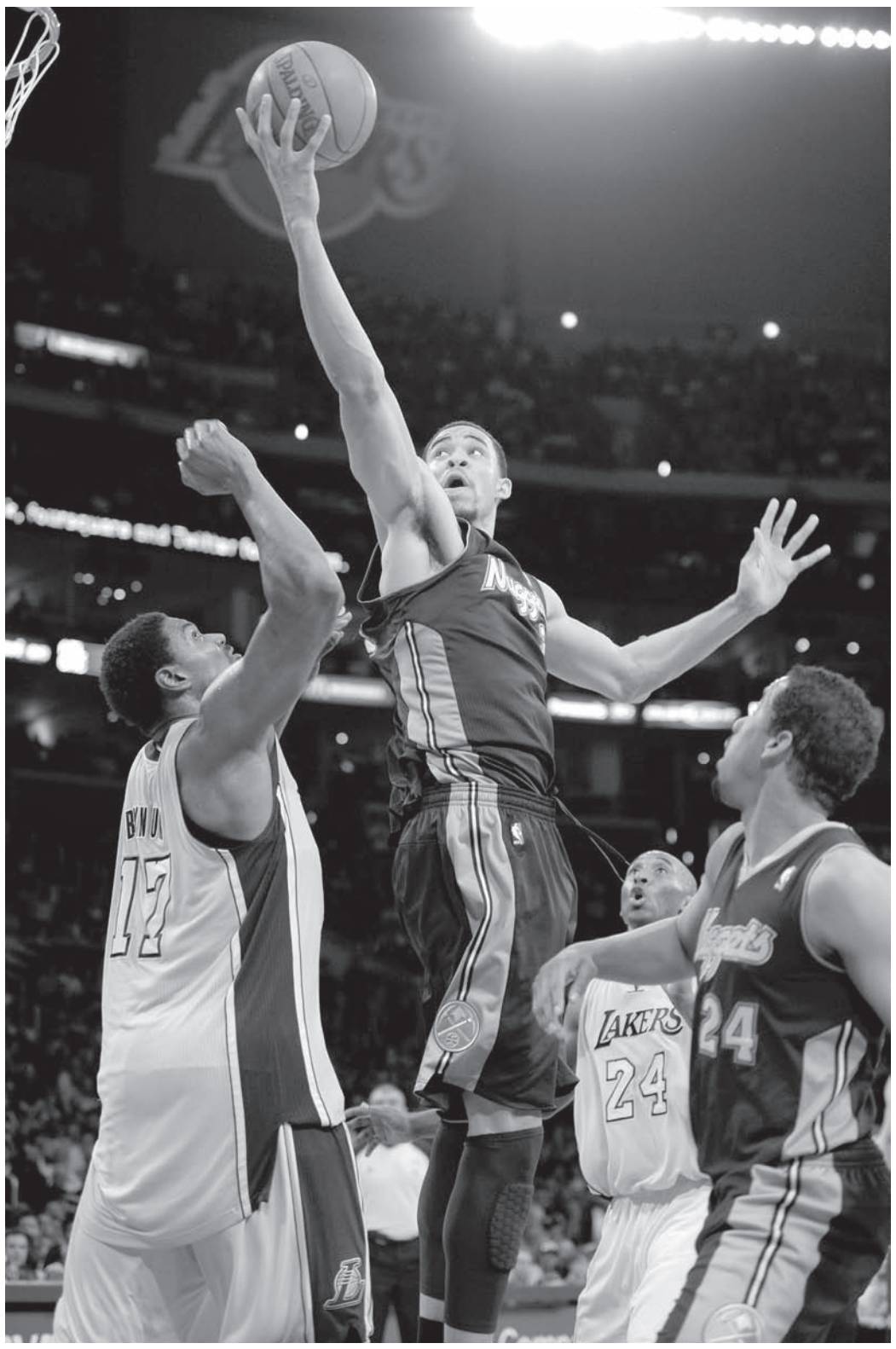
The Nuggets still must win two games to advance to the second round for just the second time in nine years, but they have already accomplished something rare by winning Game 5. Los Angeles had closed out a playoff series on the first try in 11 of its previous 12 opportunities, and the Lakers won 12 of their last 13 closeout games under departed coach Phil Jackson.

The Lakers never trailed in the first two games of the series, but they never led in Game 5 after their very first basket made it 2-0.

"They were daring us to take outside shots," Brown said. "We were getting shots we couldn't make. But to me, that's not the difference in the game. There were so many things we could have done to win this ballgame. ... I'm more disappointed in our defense and our lack of protecting the paint."

The Lakers thought they had taken control of the series with a final-minute rally to win a tight Game 4, but the Nuggets have outplayed the third-seeded Lakers for long stretches of the series. Denver was sharper and more determined from the opening tip in Game 5, while the Lakers played a disorganized, disinterested 3 1/2 quarters until the late rally.

In the best game of his first career playoff series, McGee threw down a mind-boggling array of dunks and converted alley-oop passes while dominating the Lakers' superstar duo of 7-footers. McGee dunked on a 60-foot alley-oop pass from Miller early in the fourth quarter, and he stared down the Lakers' fans after dunking while getting fouled with 6:35 to play, putting the Nuggets ahead by 15.



AP

Denver Nuggets center JaVale McGee, top, puts up a shot as Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum, left, defends and shooting guard Kobe Bryant, second from right, and point guard Andre Miller look on during the second half in Game 5 of an NBA first-round playoff basketball game, Tuesday, May 8, 2012, in Los Angeles.

Pau Gasol had just nine points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, while Matt Barnes scored 11 points.

The Lakers failed to complete their first playoff series victory under coach Mike Brown exactly one year after Dallas swept the Lakers in the second round of last year's postseason, ending 11-time NBA champion coach Jackson's career - for now, anyway.

Los Angeles' loss means starting forward Metta World Peace will finish his seven-game suspension during the first round. World Peace was banned for viciously elbowing Oklahoma City's James Harden in the Lakers' penultimate regular-season game.

The Lakers got off to a 3-for-12 start and fell behind after leading the first two home games of the series from start to finish. Neither team was particularly sharp in the first half, with the Lakers trailing 49-43 at the break after making just 15 of 45 shots despite 18 points from Bryant.

Denver enforced its preferred speedy tempo on the walk-it-up Lakers for long stretches, repeatedly beating the Lakers back with fast breaks and sharp passes. Each time the Lakers managed to get close, the Nuggets responded with a rally, including a 10-2 surge to close the third quarter.

Pacers 105, Magic 87

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 25 points to help the Indiana Pacers beat the Orlando Magic and clinch their first-round NBA Eastern Conference playoff series 4-1.

It was Indiana's first series win in the playoffs since 2005 and its first homecourt clincher since the first round of the 2000 playoffs. The Pacers will play Miami or New York in the second round.

Darren Collison scored 15 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and George Hill added 15 points for the Pacers, who trailed by two at the end of the third quarter but outscored the Magic 36-16 in the final 12 minutes.

Jameer Nelson led Orlando with 27 points and made 5 of 8 3-pointers. Glen Davis, a thorn in Indiana's side throughout the series, scored 15 but made just 6 of 17 shots. The Magic made just 5 of 16 shots in the fourth quarter.

Collison made a layup and hit a 3-pointer to give the Pacers a 78-73 lead with 9:33 to play. After Nelson drained another 3, Collison came back with a layup, then Leandro Barbosa's steal and layup pushed Indiana's lead to 87-80 with 6:49 to play and forced an Orlando timeout. A few minutes later, Indiana's Paul George stole an inbounds pass and found Granger under the hoop for a layup and a 91-80 lead. The Pacers dominated from there.

Hawks 87, Celtics 86

In Atlanta, the hosts edged Boston in a thrilling Game 5, avoiding elimination and cutting the series deficit to 3-2.

Al Horford scored 19 points in his first start since January, and the Atlanta Hawks held on for an 87-86 victory over the Boston Celtics in a thrilling Game 5 of the Eastern Conference playoffs Tuesday night.

The Celtics lead the series 3-2 heading back to Boston for Game 6 on Thursday. If the Hawks can steal one on the road, the deciding game would be Saturday in Atlanta.

Boston had a chance to clinch the series when Rajon Rondo stole Josh Smith's inbounds pass with 10 seconds remaining and raced down the court, looking for the winner. But he got hemmed in along the sideline and Smith knocked away a desperation pass, the ball rolling away as time ran out.

A relieved Smith collapsed on the scorer's table.

Atlanta's Al Horford had 19 points in his first start since January while Smith overcame pain from a sore knee to tally 13 points and 16 rebounds. Jeff Teague had 16 points, while Joe Johnson and Marvin Williams had 15 apiece, giving Atlanta double-figure scoring from all five of its starters in a revamped lineup.

Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett led the Celtics with 16 points apiece. Rondo had 13 points and 12 assists, and the last of his five assists almost gave Boston a chance to end the series early and get some much-needed rest.

The Hawks kept their season going, getting a huge contribution from a player who wasn't there for much of it. Horford went down in January with a torn pectoral muscle, missing the rest of the regular season and the first three games of the playoffs. But he made a surprise return off the bench in Game 4, one of the few bright spots in an embarrassing 101-79 loss.

Boston headed to Atlanta intent on wrapping things up, but Horford clearly wanted to play a little longer after missing so much time. He led fast breaks and dived on the court for loose balls, not the least bit worried about reinjuring himself. In addition to leading the Hawks in scoring, he grabbed 11 rebounds, dished out three assists, came up with three steals and blocked three shots.

Bulls 77, 76ers 69

In Chicago, the hosts prevailed in a dour defensive contest, beating Philadelphia and slicing the series deficit to 3-2.

Luol Deng scored 24 points and Carlos Boozer added 19 points and 13 rebounds for the top-seeded Bulls, who finally won without point guard Derrick Rose, building a nine-point halftime lead and staying in control through the second half.

It's been a brutal series for the Bulls, with Rose tearing the ACL in his left knee late in the opener and center Joakim Noah spraining his left ankle in Game 3. He sat out his second straight game, but Chicago refused to bow out quietly.

Instead, the Bulls locked down the Sixers, holding them to a season-low 32.1 percent shooting.

Deng played more like an All-Star after averaging just eight points in the previous three games, hitting 4 of 5 3-point attempts—three in the fourth quarter. He also grabbed eight rebounds. Boozer tied a career-playoff high with six assists, and the Bulls came out on top just when their season appeared to be unraveling.

They still have no room for error. A loss in Game 6 on Thursday would make them the fifth No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 8 seed in the first round.

Jrue Holiday scored 16 points for Philadelphia but hit just 5 of 17 shots. Lou Williams scored 13 points and Andre Iguodala and Spencer Hawes both finished with 11 for the Sixers, who are chasing their first playoff series victory in nine years.

The Bulls took a 57-48 lead into the fourth quarter after another injury scare late in the third.

This time, Taj Gibson came up clutching his right ankle and hit the court after fouling Lavoy Allen underneath with just over 2 minutes left in the quarter. He came back early in the fourth to loud cheers, and the crowd was really roaring when Deng nailed a 3 to make it 67-52, giving the Bulls their biggest lead.

Hamilton hits four homers in Rangers win

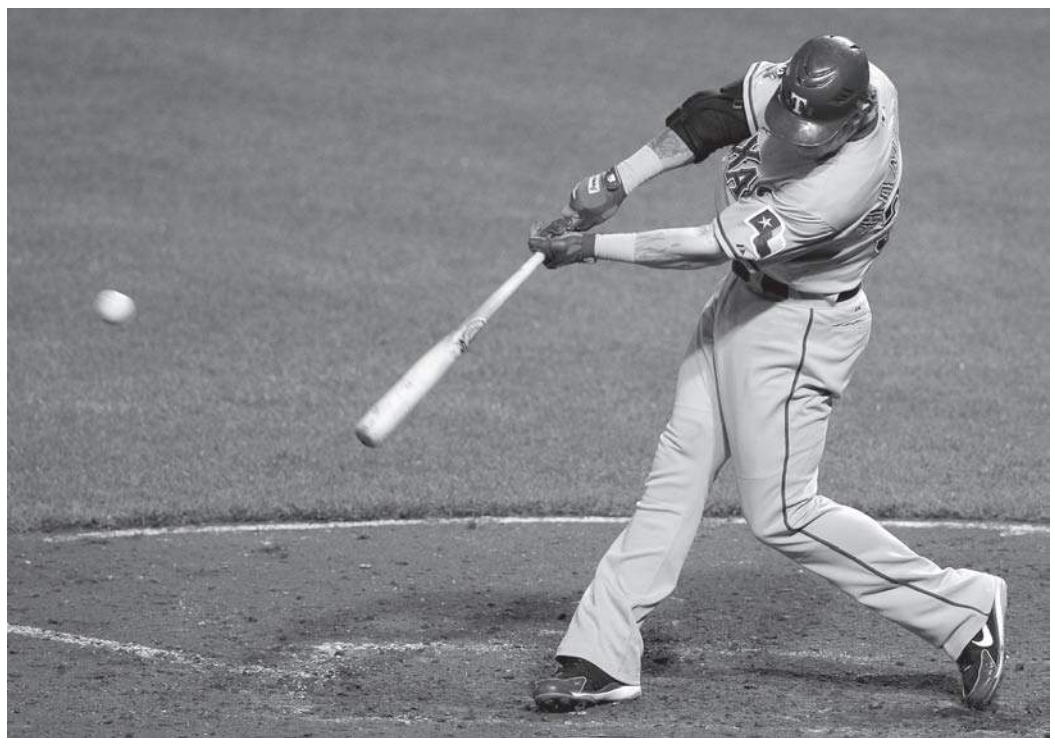
BALTIMORE (AP)—Texas slugger Josh Hamilton became the 16th player to hit four home runs in a game, launching a quartet of two-run drives in a history-making performance that carried the Rangers to a 10-3 win over the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday.

Hamilton homered off Jake Arrieta (2-3) in the first and third innings, added another off Zach Phillips in the seventh and topped it off with a one-for-the-books shot against Darren O'Day in the eighth.

He also doubled in the fifth inning. His 18 total bases is a new single-game American League record, and his eight RBIs are a career high.

The previous player to hit four home runs in a game was Carlos Delgado in 2003 for Toronto against Tampa Bay.

Texas starter Neftali Feliz (2-1) gave up one run and had a career-high eight strikeouts in six innings of work.



AP

Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton hits a two-run home run in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Baltimore, Tuesday, May 8, 2012. Texas won 10-3.

Yankees 5, Rays 3

In New York, David Robertson struck out Carlos Pena with the bases loaded to end a rocky ninth inning and give New York its first victory over Tampa Bay in eight attempts.

Robertson only just held on in his first save chance since veteran closer Mariano Rivera suffered a season-ending knee injury.

Raul Ibanez homered twice, Curtis Granderson also connected and the Yankees handed Rays pitcher James Shields (5-1) his first loss in seven starts this season.

New York starter Ivan Nova (4-1) pitched seven sharp innings, the last three in a steady rain. He gave up six hits and struck out eight.

Athletics 7, Blue Jays 3

In Oakland, newcomer Brandon Inge hit a game-ending grand slam to cap a five-run ninth inning rally that powered Oakland over Toronto.

The Blue Jays had taken the lead in the top of the ninth off Grant Balfour (1-1).

But in the bottom half of the inning, Michael Taylor hit a leadoff double off Francisco Cordero (1-2) and went to third on Jemile Weeks' sacrifice. Cliff Pennington followed with an RBI single to tie the game.

After two intentional walks, Inge ended it with a drive into the left-field seats.

White Sox 5, Indians 3, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Alex Rios tripled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning to lead Chicago over Cleveland.

Cleveland closer Chris Perez (0-1) yielded a leadoff single to Paul Konerko. After a foul out, Rios lined a drive over the head of the second baseman which rolled all the way to the wall.

Rios then scored on a fielder's choice, beating the throw home after a ground ball hit by Alexei Ramirez.

White Sox reliever Hector Santiago (1-1) pitched the ninth for his first career win.

Tigers 6, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Justin Verlander won his 12th straight decision on the road as Detroit raced to an early lead and held on against Seattle.

Verlander (3-1) wasn't his sharpest, giving up three runs, but he retired nine of his final 10 batters, struck out six and went at least six innings for the 49th straight start.

Prince Fielder hit a homer as the Tigers established a 5-0 lead.

Mariners starter Kevin Millwood (0-4) struggled early but made it through five innings, allowing five runs with five walks.

Royals 6, Red Sox 4

In Kansas City, Billy Butler hit a mammoth three-run homer in the eighth inning to lead Kansas City past Boston.

Chris Getz and Humberto Quintero also drove in runs for the Royals, who overcame another lousy performance by their starting pitcher to pick up a confidence-boosting win.

Boston's Daniel Bard (2-4) walked two batters to start the eighth before giving way to reliever Matt Albers, whose third pitch to Butler landed beyond the left-field wall.

Kelvin Herrera and Jose Mijares (2-1) had kept Kansas City in the game after Danny Duffy lasted just 4 1-3 innings. Jonathan Broxton worked the ninth for his sixth save.

Twins 5, Angels 0

In Minneapolis, Scott Diamond pitched a career-best seven scoreless innings in his season debut, steering Minnesota to victory over Los Angeles.

Diamond (1-0) struck out six, the most in any of his eight major league starts. He's the first Twins starter to pitch this year without allowing a run. Diamond got 12 groundball outs and walked only one.

Ryan Doumit hit a two-run homer for Minnesota.

Angels starter Dan Haren (1-3) didn't even finish the fourth, the shortest of his seven starts this season. He gave up five runs over 3 2-3 innings.

Giants 2, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, the San Francisco Giants beat Los Angeles, ending a run of 12 successive home victories by Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw.

Kershaw hadn't lost at home since April 16, 2011. The Giants snapped an 0-6 skid against the left-hander.

Kershaw (2-1) had his career-best 10-game overall winning streak end despite giving up only two runs in eight innings, striking out seven and walking just one.

Giants starter Ryan Vogelsong (1-2) pitched into the eighth inning for the first time this season, allowing one run in 7-1/3 innings.

San Francisco closer Santiago Casilla retired the last batter for his sixth save in seven attempts.

Cardinals 6, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Carlos Beltran homered in his first two at-bats, including a grand slam, for six RBIs, as St. Louis handed Arizona its fourth loss in a row.

Beltran hit a two-run homer off Ian Kennedy (3-2) in the first, then cleared the bases with a shot into the swimming pool area in right-center in the second; his 10th career grand slam.

Cardinals starter Jake Westbrook (4-2) pitched seven scoreless innings.

Pirates 5, Nationals 4

In Pittsburgh, Rod Barajas hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Pittsburgh over Washington.

The veteran catcher, mired in a season-long hitting slump, drilled a shot down the left field line that sailed a few rows into the seats for his first home run and RBIs of the year.

The Nationals had gone ahead in the top of the ninth thanks to Adam LaRoche's two-run homer.

However Alex Presley singled with one out in the bottom of the ninth off Henry Rodriguez (1-2) and moved to third on a pair of wild pitches before Barajas' shot.

Tony Watson (2-0) earned the victory.

Mets 7, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Lucas Duda had a tiebreaking, two-out RBI single in the seventh as New York took advantage of a Philadelphia defensive blunder.

Duda and David Wright had two hits and two RBIs each to help the Mets win their fourth straight.

The Mets took the lead in the seventh with four two-out runs, including Duda's single off lefthander Antonio Bastardo (1-2) that drove in Wright with the go-ahead run.

New York reliever Manny Acosta (1-2) didn't allow a hit in two-thirds of an inning in the sixth.

Braves 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Dan Uggla hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the eighth inning to lift Atlanta over Chicago.

Michael Bourn reached on a leadoff single and Kerry Wood (0-2) issued two walks before Uggla drove a pitch back up the middle for his third hit of the game.

Atlanta reliever Kris Medlen (1-0) pitched a perfect seventh to take the win.

Astros 3, Marlins 2

In Houston, Brian Bogusevic hit an eighth-inning RBI double to lift Houston to a victory that ended Miami's season-best seven-game winning streak.

The game was tied at 2-2 when Travis Buck singled with two outs before Bogusevic's hit off Ryan Webb (1-1) just cleared the left fielder and brought Buck home.

The Astros had tied the game when two errors on one play by Omar Infante allowed two runs to score in the sixth inning.

Houston's Wilton Lopez (3-0) allowed one hit in the eighth for the win and Brett Myers pitched a scoreless ninth for the save.

Brewers 8, Reds 3

In Milwaukee, Aramis Ramirez hit a three-run triple, helping Milwaukee shake off its recent offensive struggles and beat Cincinnati.

Brewers starter Yovani Gallardo (2-3) gave up two runs in six innings and tied a season high with eight strikeouts. He also hit an RBI single in the fifth, snapping an eight-game scoreless streak by the Reds' bullpen.

Scott Rolen's double in the eighth was the 506th of his career, tying Babe Ruth for 48th on the all-time list.

Reds starter Homer Bailey (1-3) gave up six runs in 3 2-3 innings.

Padres 3, Rockies 1

In San Diego, Will Venable tripled and scored in the first, then doubled in the go-ahead run in the fifth inning to lead San Diego over Colorado.

Padres starter Jeff Suppan (2-0), settled down after the first inning, when he allowed two hits and two walks but gave up only one run. The 37-year-old has won both of his starts since being recalled from the minors to replace the injured Cory Luebke.

Suppan contributed to the go-ahead run when he sacrificed Jason Bartlett, who drew a leadoff walk in the fifth. Venable then followed with a double to give the Padres a 2-1 lead against Alex White (0-1), who was making his season debut.

The Rockies lost their fifth straight.

Hargrove's declaration says he followed orders

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Former Saints defensive lineman Anthony Hargove describes in a sworn statement how he was told by ex-defensive coordinator Gregg Williams and current New Orleans assistant head coach Joe Vitt to deny the existence of a bounty program to NFL investigators.

In a document obtained Monday by The Associated Press, Hargrove acknowledges that he acted on Williams' and Vitt's instructions to "play dumb" if asked whether he was aware of bounties being placed on former Minnesota quarterback Brett Favre or any other player.

The declaration does not go into specifics, however, about just what Hargrove knew or did not know about the bounty program in New Orleans, and for that reason it has become a point of contention between the NFL and the NFL Players Association.

From the union's perspective, Hargrove's statement does not say that he lied to anyone, nor does it state that he or any other Saints participated in a bounty program that offered cash bonuses for hits that injured targeted opponents.

The NFL, by contrast, has said that Hargrove's words acknowledge the existence of a bounty program and show that Hargrove initially lied to NFL investigators about it.

In describing Hargrove's declaration last week, Mary Jo White, a former U.S. attorney hired by the NFL to review its investigation, said the player, "acknowledges the nature of the program and his participation in it, and, which is really the thrust of the declaration, that he was told to lie about it, and he did when he was asked about it in 2010 by the NFL investigators."

Hargrove, currently with Green Bay, was one of four players who received suspensions of various lengths in connection with the bounty probe. Hargrove was suspended eight games, Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma for the entire season, Saints defensive end Will Smith for four games and Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita for three games.

Vilma's attorney, Peter Ginsberg called the NFL's characterization of Hargrove's statement "misleading."

"All we know from the declaration is that a couple of coaches were in trouble and hoped for support from him," Ginsberg said. "Anthony's declaration in no way supports that he lied, that a bounty system existed or that players participated in any kind of inappropriate program. It's a shame that the NFL needed to have mischaracterized that declaration in order to justify these punishments. It's just another reason to conclude that the NFL has no evidence to justify what it has done to the players."

The NFL has said the Saints' bounty program was run by Williams from 2009 through 2011. Williams has been suspended indefinitely by the league and has apologized for his actions.

CWGA 2012 season opener this Saturday

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Women's Golfers Association will hold its 2012 season opener this Saturday when it hosts its May Ace of the Month Tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course.

Show time is set for 11:30am with a 12:30pm tee off and club organizers are requesting all players to be prompt. Members are also being reminded about the 2012 membership renewal dues.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

Its organizational goals consist of promoting civic and community interest in golf; establishing and encouraging competition and good sportsmanship; promoting and providing social functions of its members and families; promoting youth golf activities; and doing all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intentions.

CWGA members also pledge to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude and conduct. Such values were adopted from the USA Junior Golf Association. They include perseverance, sportsmanship, respect, honesty, judgment, responsibility, reliance, courtesy and sincerity.

For more information contact Terry Guerrero at 285-8374, Bennet Seman at 483-0126, Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, or Delores Yamagishi at 483-3195.

BREWERS

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including a two-RBI single by Pangelinan.

Masters pitcher Ben Duenas was not discouraged despite not receiving any run support. He also could have used cleaner play by the defense who had trouble getting under fly balls all night.

He kept the Brewers at bay through the fourth and fifth innings, however the Masters stranded a runner in scoring position in the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings.

The writing appeared on the wall in the top of the sixth inning when the Brewers piled on seven runs off four hits. Roy Celis cracked a two-RBI double and Byron Kaipat an RBI triple.

Kaipat came to the mound to finish for starter Ota Noboyuke and had little trouble securing the save.

His Brewers went on to add four more runs in the top of the seventh off four more hits and a pair of sacrifice flies by Manny Sablan and designated hitter Murphy Namelo. Kaipat bagged an RBI single in the mix as well.

Winning pitcher Noboyuke gave up zero earned runs off two hits, four walks, and a bean ball with four strikeouts through five innings.

Brewers' Pangelinan swung 3-for-4 with three RBIs, three runs, a stolen base, and a hit-by-pitch. Sablan batted 3-for-4 with an RBI, two runs, and a base on balls.

Northern Yankees 25, D-9ers 6

Surprisingly, the D-9ers grinded out an early 4-3 edge in the opening frame. They loaded the bases and worked one run to the plate in the process, which eventually set the stage for a base-clearing double by Chad Atalig.

Northern Yankees' Dave Jones was tapped to relieve Jared Camacho after another run crossed the plate early in the second inning. Jones pulled the plug on the D-9ers' offense for the next four frames after which he gave the ball to Greg Camacho to close the last two frames.

At the plate, the Yankees seized control, 8-5, in the bottom of the second inning thanks to three walks, some errors, and an RBI double by Jerome Delos Santos. Joshua Jones also reached with a single and touched all four.

Then the Yankees pulled ahead, 12-5, in the third as Chris Camacho drove in Ben Jones and scored off an error and Jerome Delos Santos lifted up a two-run home run that brought Gary Cruz to the plate with him.

The game was well out of reach at that point, but the Yankees nailed up a couple of runs in the fifth off errors and then piled on eight more in the sixth off three hits, an error, three walks, a bean ball, and a sacrifice fly by Camacho. Ben Jones bagged an RBI single and Tom Agulto stamped the exclamation point to the end with a base-clearing, three-RBI base smash.

The Yankees then put up its final four runs in the seventh off another five hits.

Dave Camacho Jr. led off with a triple and scored off a wild pitch, while Delos Santos drilled a two-RBI single before being brought to the dish by Joshua Jones.

Winning pitcher Dave Jones gave up one hit with seven strikeouts through four scoreless innings.

Yankees' Delos Santos batted 4-for-5 with seven RBIs, three

THEA

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Minor and Miller beat Eda and Sakano in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0. They did get a challenge from eventual boys 15-and-under singles champion Cajigan and his runner-up Dela Cruz in the second round, but prevailed nonetheless in a score of 7-5, 6-0.

The top seeds didn't miss a beat when play resumed last weekend, as they defeated Dylan Ackerman and Colin Ramsey, 6-1, 6-1, before making it 4-for-4 with a hard-earned 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 victory against Rafael Jones and Jake Lee.

Eda and Sakano finished second in the division with a 3-1 mark, followed by Jones and Lee (2-2), Cajigan and Dela Cruz (1-3), and Ackerman and Ramsey (0-4).

In the boys 13-and-under doubles, Steven Goodwin and Michael Ren reigned supreme with also an immaculate 3-0 card.

The duo lost a grand total of one point en route to the championship. They won via walkover against Jeremy Seo and Eugene Park in their first game.

They did have to sweat it out in their second game, a 6-0, 6-0 skunking of Rintaro Miyawaki and Kevin Kim before achieving perfection with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Michael Jones and Tony Atalig.

Haruyo Eda and Vincent Tudela finished second in the age group at 2-1, followed by Jones and Atalig (1-2), while Seo and Park and Miyawaki and Kim ended up tied in last place (0-3).

Neghar Rastguiy and Emily Jones, meanwhile, topped the girls 13-and-under doubles after triumphing against Tania Tan and Mimi Sakano in the finals, 6-3, 6-2.

The champion duo advanced to the championship round after a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Lisa and Catherine Atalig.

Before that, Jones and Rastguiy made quick work of Grace Choi and Hana Nelson. 6-1, 6-0.

Tan and Sakano, for their part, beat Ami Tsukagoshi and Malika Miyawaki, 6-2, 6-1, to advance to the finals.

The 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships was organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association with Angelo Jones serving as tournament director.

The top finishers in the season-ending youth tourney will get ranking points. These points will be compiled by NMITA and will help determine the CNMI's representatives to the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June.

The Top 5 players in the ranking list in the U15 and U12 age groups and Top 4 in the U18 will earn slots on the team.

SENIOR

From Page 28

4-7 slate and now sits a game ahead of the St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters (3-8) for the last playoff spot.

Top-ranked and 2011 champion Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces (8-4) and third place IT&E Fielders (5-6) represent the rest of the Big Division.

SENIOR DIVISION
Falcons 11, D-9ers 1

The Falcons built an early 4-1 lead in the first three innings. Jose Lizama Jr. drove in Ray Saralu in the second frame, while some hot throws allowed three runs to the plate in the third.

Jason Camacho provided the D-9ers' only run in the fifth inning with a base hit that scored K.C. Jones, but the Falcons soared ahead, 10-1, in the bottom frame off four hits. The top of the lineup loaded the bases for a three-RBI double by Saralu who later stole home. Lizama Jr. ripped an RBI double and Ricky Renguul made it around after reaching on a fielder's choice.

Falcons' Frankie Lieto was tapped to close the sixth frame for Renguul and the birds worked a leadoff walk and a couple of base pokes to get the run needed for the early decision; notably Lieto notched four strikeouts in his one inning.

Renguul gave up zero earned runs of three hits and a walk with seven strikeouts through five frames.

Saralu batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base.

Lions 19, D-9ers 6

The Lions stretched out to a 7-4 lead in the top of the second inning off an early error, three hits, and sacrifice fly by Brel Yobech. Bret Halstead bashed a double, while Dave Matagolai and Paul Celis bagged RBI singles.

The D-9ers came out swinging in the opening round, but faded out when Lions' Halstead came to the hump to stop the bleeding in the first inning.

The three runs he received in support may have been enough, but his teammates leaped ahead, 15-4, in the top of the third off six hits. Matagolai, Halstead, Celis, Josh Santos, and Justin Reyes all bagged RBIs.

The D-9ers managed to sprinkle a run in the third and fourth innings to prolong their demise, but the pride never had a doubt.

Winning pitcher Halstead gave up one earned run off three hits, three walks, and a hit batsman with four strikeouts through five innings.

Falcons' Reyes swung 3-for-3 with an RBI, three runs, and a base on ball. D-9ers Nick Jones batted 2-for-2—both doubles—for an RBI and a run with a base on ball.

Falcons 10, Enforcers 6

The Falcons lifted off to a 5-0 lead in the third inning off a two-RBI single by Ray Saralu, a two-RBI double by Brandon Lieto, and an RBI triple by Jose Lizama Jr.

They mustered two more runs to start the fourth before the Enforcers managed three runs on the bottom end off three hits. Enforcers' Sid Nepaial bagged an RBI single and E.J. Itibus an RBI double.

The count shifted to 5-7 in the sixth inning as the Enforcers tried to mount a late comeback, but the Falcons slapped them back with five hits for three runs in the top of the seventh and held strong for the win. Their bottom three—Adolfo Ropul, Roy Tudela, and Lucio Kalen—sealed the deal with consecutive RBI base rips.

Kalen finished 3-for-4 with an RBI, a run, and a stolen base.

BIG DIVISION
Lions 5, Hunters 4

The Hunters broke away from a 1-1 tie after the first inning with three runs in top of the third off two hits and a wild pitch. Clayton Aguon bashed a double and stole home and Lincoln Ingram bagged an RBI single.

Lions' Richard Dela Cruz drove home Leroy Regis to get a run back in the bottom frame and the pride jumped in front with three runs in the fifth inning thanks to a two-RBI double by Regis., who soon scored off an error.

Regis played a pivotal role in the game and denied the Hunters passage to third base after their uprising in the third inning.

He started slow, but figured it out in the end. Regis went the distance and gave up three earned runs off four hits, three walks, and two hit batsmen with eight strikeouts. He also batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs.

Hunters' Ingram swung 2-for-3.

Lions 2, Hustlers 1

The Lions were actually held in check for most of the game by Hustlers' Kevin Villagomez who pitched a great game, giving up just two hits through 5 2/3 innings before the wheels came off defensively in the clutch.

Lions starting pitcher Leroy Regis dealt 4 2/3 scoreless innings and allowed just three hits and a walk on his shift.

Relief man Greg Iskawa picked up where he left off and kept a lid on the Hustlers through the late innings.

The Lions defense also stepped up a great deal to help close out the chess match.

The Hustlers managed to crank out eight hits in the game, but were contained to just one run, which was chalked up in the top of the sixth inning off a sacrifice fly by McJarrel Scaliem that brought MacGarette Duenas to the dish.

Early errors by the Hustlers infield, however allowed Lions' Tim Deleon Guerrero to tie up the match in the bottom frame.

The ruckus ultimately led to Villagomez handing the ball off to Brian Camacho with two runners on the path and one out.

Camacho sat down his first man, but another error up the middle ended up giving it away; Ricardo Dela Cruz scored the go-ahead run.

Iskawa went on to stand up the Hustlers 1-2-3 in the final stand.

He gave up one earned run off five hits and two walks with a strikeout through 3 2/3 innings.

Hustlers' Brian Camacho batted 3-for-3.

GUAM

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ciation). They have many superior soccer pitch/facility. They have a larger pool of qualified coaches. They have a larger pool of good players as GFA (Guam Football Association) has over 3,000 kids playing soccer in Guam. Thus, I don't think anyone should celebrate last month's result that we are better than Guam since it was a festival format," he wrote in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

But Tan said the CNMI U14 National Team's performance in Beijing definitely gave a good impression on the work NMIFA has been doing to further develop the sport in the CNMI.

"I know our U14 boys team has surprised AFC and Guam, and we are definitely closing the gap with Guam with the continuing development of our youth players. I can say that we are now competitive with Guam!" he said.

For his part, NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas agreed with Tan's assessment and said despite AFC not recording scores because the tournament was a non-competitive one, it still mattered a lot to CNMI players to finish ahead of Guam in Beijing.

"Competition with Guam is always tough but we are improving against them and one day it'll be 'sweet' victory when we notch a win. I know our boys were excited when I gave them the unofficial standings. Had Guam beaten Macau and not tied them we would have finished below them, so we give our thanks to Macau," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

For the record, the CNMI finished the AFC U14 boys football festival in seventh place with a 2-5-2 win-loss-draw record.

South Korea finished with a perfect 9-0-0 card, ahead of Japan (7-1-1), Hong Kong (6-1-2), North Korea (5-1-3), China (4-1-4), and Chinese-Taipei (3-5-1).

Finishing below the CNMI were Mongolia (2-6-1), Guam (2-6-1), and Macau (0-8-1).

In terms of matches, the CNMI U14 team beat Chinese-Taipei, 2-0, and Macau, 1-0. It also forced draws against host China, 1-1, and Mongolia, 2-2.

It did lose five games, twice to Guam (2-0 and 4-0), once against South Korea (2-0), and were thoroughly beaten by Japan (18-0) and North Korea (9-0).

The CNMI U14 National Football Team was made up of Dakota Hall, Jordan Butcher-Wade, William Hinson II, Joel Fruit, and Kennedy Izuka. Completing the team are Carlson Cruzat, Alan Hinson, Christopher Aninzo, Daniel and John Auther, Julian Pellegrino, Won-Young Kim, Jeremie Tanghal, Gideon Borja, John Masga, Louie Calayag, Emmanuel Aniana, Ryu Tanzawa, Moris Villanueva, Joshua Galarion, James Ermitanio, and Wataru Takima.

Kiyoshi Sekiguchi was the team's head coach with Gary Ramsey serving as team doctor/secretary.

GCDC 1st Anniversary Bash

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Participating families listen in on the rules of the bean bag race during last Sunday's Garapan Community Development Center 1st Anniversary Bash at the Chamolinian Utt grounds.

Some younger family players, front, wait for their turn during the grab bag race.

The Itibus family poses with their prize and GCDC's Joe Diaz, right, after coming out the winner of one of the family games competitions.

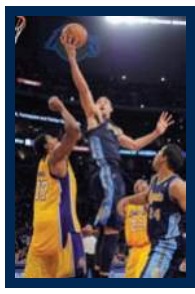
The Rios family poses with their prizes and GCDC's Joe Diaz, right, after coming out the winner of one of the family games competitions.

The Taitano family poses with their prize and GCDC's Joe Diaz, right, after coming out the winner of one of the family games competitions.

The Sharks-Mantas pose for a team photo at the Garapan Basketball Court after receiving runner-up honors during the GCDC's U17 Girls Basketball League championship match that closed the festivities.

Kagman Elementary School's Umang Glee Club pose for a group photo with, from left, vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro and GCDC's Joe Diaz.

Kagman Elementary School's Umang Glee Club performs a song and dance routine during a break in the family games.



Nuggets avoid elimination, hold off Lakers

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Hamilton hits four homers in Rangers win

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Brewers, Yankees hammer blowout wins

Brewers third baseman Mike Pangelinan fields a pop fly behind the mound against the Masters in their Saipan Major League matchup last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers and the Northern Yankees both notched lopsided wins to remain ahead of the pack in the standings as the Saipan Major League 2012 season rounds to a close at the Francisco Tan Ko Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers pummeled the Masters, 18-1, last Monday, while the Yankees chewed up the D-9ers, 25-6, last Wednesday.

Both matches lasted only seven innings and both frontrunners still share identical win-loss records of 3-1.

Defending champion St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (2-1) and the Ol'Aces (2-1) are still in firing distance while the Fielders (2-2), Masters (1-3), and D-9ers (0-3) are trying to turn things around.

Brewers 18, Masters 1

Monday's game started after a slight rain delay and was then interrupted a second time by a brief power outage during the second inning side change.

The Brewers established an early 2-0 lead in the first inning off an error and an RBI base smash by Mike Pangelinan.

The Masters' lone run came shortly after the second inning from an RBI single by Manny Tenorio, and although they hung around for longer than what the final score suggests, they simply could not string together enough hits to ignite a rally.

The Brewers shot ahead,

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Thea, Christian top U18 doubles

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As expected, top junior netters Thea Minor and Christian Miller won the boys 18-and-under doubles of the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Minor and Miller completed a sweep of the age group by winning all four their matches in the round-robin competition.

The duo first dispatched Seiya Eda and Amami Sakano and Carl Dela Cruz and Cris Cajigan during the tournament's first week of competition.

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MARK RABAGO

Thea Minor, left, and Christian Miller pose with their boys 18-and-under doubles championship trophies during the awards ceremony of the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Senior Falcons, Big Lions collect pair of wins

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Falcons' Ray Saralu rears back for a big swing against the D-9ers in their Senior Division matchup last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Saipan Little League's Senior Division Natibu Sports Association-Talaabwogh Falcons and the Big Division's Sen. Ralph DLG Torres-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Eliceo P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions both tacked up a couple of important victories this past week as the 2012 regular season continued at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons overwhelmed the IT&E D-9ers (1-11), 11-1, in a drawn out six innings Tuesday night and put down the DPS-Dare Program-Leep-Enforcers (3-8), 10-6, back on Saturday, while the Big League's Lions enjoyed the winning end of a pair of close battles and toppled the St. Michael's Medical Response-Hunters (3-8), 5-4, on Sunday after flabbergasting the second place Paradise Island Animal Hospital Hustlers (7-4), 2-1, last Thursday

The Senior Falcons improved its record to 8-3 in a three-way tie for second place in the overall standings, which really helps solidify them, Juan Santiago's Jets II, and the IT&E Fielders in the playoff picture behind the undefeated Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces (10-0).

In other results, the Senior League's Marianas Cable Vision-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Frederick P. DL Guerrero-Kagman Lions (4-8) pounced on the D-9ers, 19-6, on Sunday.

The Rep. Antonio Sablan-Eliceo D. Cabrera-Hunters (6-5) make up the rest of the Senior field.

The Lions improved to a

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'Guam still better than CNMI in soccer'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI may have finished two rungs higher than archrival Guam in the team standings of the 2012 Boys Asian Football Confederation U14 Festival, but that doesn't necessarily mean the Commonwealth suddenly has leapfrogged the U.S. territory in the sport of soccer.

No less than Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan asserted that the U14 boys soccer festival in Beijing, China in no way correctly gauged the levels of the island nations' soccer programs.

"Despite placing ahead of Guam, I know that Guam still has a stronger soccer program than the CNMI since they are 30 years ahead of our soccer history. They have large funding support from FIFA (Federacion Internationale de Football Asso-

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